POZIOM C1-C2
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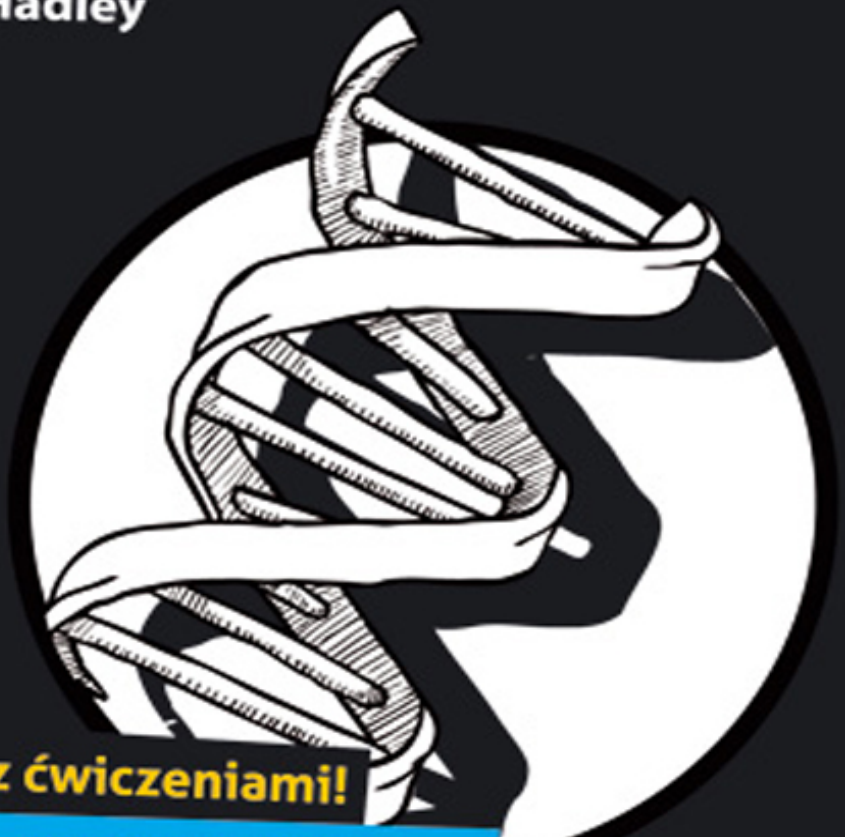
Angielski

The Placebo Effect

Kevin Hadley



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THE PLACEBO EFFECT

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Warszawa 2014

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WSTĘP

Serię **ANGIELSKI Z KRYMINAŁEM** kierujemy do uczniów szkół średnich, studentów i samouków pragnących w niekonwencjonalny sposób doskonalić znajomość języka angielskiego. Jako źródło ciekawych tekstów i ćwiczeń znakomicie uzupełni naukę w szkole i na kursach; świetnie sprawdzi się także jako dodatkowy atrakcyjny materiał lekcyjny.

ANGIELSKI Z KRYMINAŁEM to jedyna seria podręczników, która sprawi, że nie będziesz mógł oderwać się od nauki języka! Łączy przyjemność lektury z intensywną pracą z tekstem, która rozwija umiejętność czytania ze zrozumieniem, wzbogaca słownictwo, utrwala znane konstrukcje gramatyczne oraz pozwala opanować nowe.

Jeśli znużyły Cię standardowe podręczniki i wkuwanie list słówek czy regułek gramatycznych, oto seria idealna dla Ciebie!

Powieść **THE PLACEBO EFFECT** została napisana z myślą o czytelnikach znających język angielski na poziomie zaawansowanym. Dzięki wciągającej fabule bez trudu zrozumiesz liczne niuanse znaczeniowe, poznasz powszechnie używane kolokwializmy oraz opanujesz kolokacje i struktury gramatyczno-leksykalne charakterystyczne dla naturalnego, współczesnego języka.

Tłumaczenia najtrudniejszych słów i zwrotów znajdziesz na marginesach, co umożliwi Ci sprawdzanie ich znaczenia bez konieczności zaglądania do słownika. W tym miejscu podano wyłącznie znaczenie, w jakim dane frazy pojawiają się w tekście; obszerniejsze wyjaśnienia przedstawiono zaś w słowniczku na końcu książki.

Głównemu tekstowi towarzyszą różnorodne ćwiczenia leksykalno-gramatyczne, m.in. łączenie synonimów lub antonimów, uzupełnianie zdań oraz zadania sprawdzające rozumienie tekstu. Dzięki lekturze poznasz nowe słownictwo w kontekście, a więc w sposób najbardziej sprzyjający zapamiętywaniu. Podział powieści na krótkie rozdziały ułatwi zrozumienie fabuły i opanowanie stworzonych w ten sposób niewielkich porcji materiału. Efektywną naukę dodatkowo wspomoże aktywne operowanie w ćwiczeniach nowo wprowadzonym słownictwem i strukturami.

Książkę zamyka klucz odpowiedzi, w którym możesz sprawdzić rozwiązania ćwiczeń, oraz słowniczek angielsko-polski zawierający tłumaczenia blisko 1200 słów i wyrażeń.

Pełna i aktualna oferta książek, kursów oraz programów multimedialnych wydawnictwa Edgard znajduje się na naszej stronie internetowej www.jezykiobce.pl.

Zapraszamy i życzymy zabójczo skutecznej nauki!

THE PLACEBO EFFECT

KEVIN HADLEY

PART 1

CHAPTER 1

“WHAT THE HELL’S GOING ON?” she asked in a **hushed**, **flustered** voice.

“**Adverse reaction**,” said the doctor. “You need to give us a few minutes.”

Susan **retreated** to a corner of the room and listened to the tortured **rattle** of the man’s breathing for a minute, before **stepping out** of the room. Taking her phone out of her pocket, she **wandered** down the corridor, and began describing the situation.

“It’s the second time this has happened.”

“I’m aware of that.”

“Well?”

“Well what?”

“What are we going to do?” she asked in a **frantic** voice.

“Nothing. There’s no reason to panic yet.”

“This time lungs... last time liver damage...”

“Liver damage in someone who was an alcoholic and forgot to tell us about it before the trial. It’s all **in black and white**, on the report. Don’t worry, we’re **insured**.”

CHAPTER 2

THE DOORS TO **A&E slid open** and the **paramedics rushed** in, **wheeling** the **stretcher**. On it, lay a man with an oxygen mask half covering his bloodied face, and a **drip** attached to his arm.

"John Jones. 27. **Run over** by a car. Conscious when we arrived. Possible **fracture** to left **tibia**. **Bruising** to the stomach. GCS[1] 13. BP[2] 120 over 70. Pulse 80. Sats[3] 98%. Received 10 of morphine **at the scene** for the pain," said the paramedic to the doctor and nurse who had come to meet them.

"**Take him through** to the emergency room," said Dr Gunn, following the stretcher.

In the room, two junior members of his team and a nurse were already waiting to get to work on the man. They **transferred** him carefully from the stretcher to the waiting bed and began the series of tests that would determine what exactly the man's injuries were. Ten minutes later, his condition suddenly began to **deteriorate** and the monitors began to show an **alarming** series of numbers. One of the junior doctors went out to **fetch** Doctor Gunn.

"He's **gone into cardiac arrest**," said the nurse to Dr Gunn, as he came through the doors.

"Okay, begin CPR[4]."

Gunn began massaging the man's chest as everyone else from the team stood back. After several minutes one of the junior doctors **took over**. Still, there was no change. Gunn intervened. "Okay. Begin **shocking**," he said as the team set up the electrical equipment.

“Everyone **stand back**,” said Gunn, before **applying** the first shock. He repeated the procedure several times and then stood back. He had seen enough. “Okay, everybody, if you’re all in agreement, I’m **calling it**.” He looked around and saw there was no doubt. “Time of death 10:27,” he said, his thoughts already turning to other things.

As he walked out of the doors, a middle-aged woman was walking in. John Gunn turned for a moment and saw the nurse come over and **put her arm around** the woman, as the terrible truth **dawned on** her.

“Come on, let’s have a coffee,” said Dr Kim Nicholls, the senior **registrar**, as she came out of the room behind Dr Gunn.

“Was that his mother?” Gunn asked as they entered the doctors’ room.

“Yes,” **confirmed** Dr Nicholls.

“**Tough**... How quickly things can change. **A couple of** hours ago she would have been sitting in the kitchen, drinking a cup of tea and **running through** the things she had to do today. And now... We have no idea, do we...”

“We don’t,” said Dr Nicholls, filling the kettle up.

As they waited for it to boil, talk turned to the evening **ahead**. “Are you coming to **the Indian** for Jim’s birthday after work?” Dr Nicholls asked.

“Of course.”

“Then karaoke afterwards? To do your Sinatra?”

“I’m not sure. I shouldn’t be late home tonight. Leslie’s got to get up early for a school trip tomorrow. They’**re off up** to Edinburgh. If I’m back late, I won’t get to see her till tomorrow night.”

“**Fair enough**. Are you prepared for the France trip yet?”

“I can’t wait,” Gunn said. “Sunshine and a few glasses of the local **plonk** by the sea are just what I need at the moment.”

The door opened and the senior nurse **popped** her head **in**.

“Back to work, you two.”

“What is it?” said Dr Nicholls as they were leaving the room.

“17-year-old girl. Suspected heroin **overdose**.”

“At 10:30 in the morning...” said Dr Gunn, shaking his head.

“She might also be pregnant,” added the nurse as they followed her into the emergency room.

1. Decide if the statement is true (T), false (F), or the text does not say anything about it (D).

[check the answer]

1. The medicine the first patient was given kicked in right away. **T / F / D**

2. The first patient had failed to mention that his liver had been damaged. **T / F / D**

3. Had the patient not been given anticoagulants, he wouldn’t have died. **T / F / D**

4. The second man who arrived at A&E was unconscious. **T / F / D**

5. The man in question had a fractured shin bone. **T / F / D**

6. The man was resuscitated to no avail. **T / F / D**

7. The doctors assumed the teenage girl was a junkie. **T / F / D**

2. Complete the sentences with appropriate forms derived from the words in blue.

[check the answer]

1. It was pure guesswork as to what brought about the ..... in his condition. **DETERIORATE**
2. Should you not receive any ..... from us within two weeks, please let us know. **CONFIRM**
3. The midwife reassured me saying there was no cause for ..... . **ALARMING**
4. The haughtiness of the consultants engendered indignation among the ..... . **REGISTER**
5. One of the Stoics ideals was to maintain composure in the face of ..... . **ADVERSE**
6. After the recent rash of burglaries in the area, the mayor is considering ..... the law on trespassing. **TOUGH**
7. Is it true that Janis Joplin died of an accidental heroin ..... ? **DOSE**

3. Translate the words in brackets.

[check the answer]

1. The injured footballer was rushed off of the field on a ..... (nosze).
2. Apparently, Jane had taken an ..... (przedawkowanie) of sleeping pills and was found comatose

by her neighbour.

3. Keep still, please. I’m going to take your ..... (ciśnienie krwi) now.
4. Jim spoke in a ..... (ściszony) voice for fear of being overheard.
5. Your ..... (płuca) look as if they are filled with tar. You’re asking for cancer or a cardiovascular disease if you don’t quit smoking.
6. I wish I hadn’t said anything to that .....(sanitariusz). He twisted my words and caused a misunderstanding between me and the doctors.

4. Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

[check the answer]

1. Grow up and stop judging people! It’s not all ..... black and white.
2. I’m not going to be manipulated by you! I’m aware ..... my rights.
3. She asked to speak to the doctor ..... a frantic voice.
4. The paramedics have just wheeled in a man with a bloodied face and a drip attached ..... his arm.
5. The car crash victim has a possible fracture ..... her left tibia.
6. Your BP is 120 ..... 70, so there’s no need to worry. Let me listen to your chest now.

7. The terrible truth dawned ..... her when she saw the look on the surgeon’s face.

8. The nurse asked us to follow her ..... the emergency room.

9. You seem to be suffering ..... asthma. How often do you have difficulty breathing, Mr Palmer?

10. I have never had my eyes operated ..... , that‘s why I‘m so terrified.

CHAPTER 3

ON THE HARDWOOD FLOOR, the man's black, **wingtip brogues** made a **reassuring** noise, which fell silent as he crossed the threshold of the office onto the **plush** white carpet. The walls were pure white, and the lighting **cast** no shadow. Behind the reception desk hung the company logo, with the name beneath it – Castle and Bird.

"Graham Tyreman," the man said to the receptionist, "I'm here to see Dr King. About the **post** of Product Development Director."

"Take a seat, Mr Tyreman," smiled the receptionist. "I'll call him and let him know you've arrived."

Tyreman sat down. On a large screen to the side of the reception desk, a film was playing, showing the company's work across the world. A minute later, a quiet **buzz** **drew** Tyreman's attention. A door opened and two men emerged – Dr King, **immaculately** dressed in a **charcoal** Dior suit, and a more **casually** dressed younger man.

"Send me the article for approval, Clive, before you send it off to your editor," Dr King said.

"Will do," said the younger man. "**I'll have it to you** before Friday morning at the latest."

"Graham, good to see you," said Dr King, noticing the **seated** man. Graham Tyreman stood up and the two men shook hands. "Come with me," Dr King said, leading his guest towards his office.

"I was wondering about the meaning of the logo," said Tyreman.

"Isn't it obvious?" asked Dr King.

"Not to me."

"Well, the castle **turret** is strong defence..."

“I’d guessed that much. And the **falcon**?”

“It’s an ancient symbol. Symbolises hope in a chaotic world. Are you **familiar with** Yeats[5]?”

“I can’t say I am,” answered a **puzzled** Tyreman.

“**Therein** lies your answer,” smiled Dr King.

Half an hour later, the two men returned to the reception area.

“I’ll come with you to the lift,” said Dr King.

As they were waiting, Tyreman asked, “what about our next meeting then? Can you make **Friday week**?”

“We have two more candidates to see,” said Dr King. “One’s out of the country at the moment. Then I’m on holiday. So it may take a couple of weeks. I hope that doesn’t **inconvenience** you.”

“No, it’s okay. Are you going anywhere nice?”

“Cote D’Azur[6]. We’re renting a villa for ten days in the hills above Menton.”

“Very nice. I was **just across** the border in Italy for my honeymoon.”

“Don’t **fret**, though, we’ll be in touch as soon as we’re ready to move things to the next level.”

The lift doors opened and the two men shook hands.

“**Any good**?” asked the receptionist, as Dr King walked back into the office.

“I’d hoped he would be. His first interview was **solid**. Knew all the marketing stuff. But he’s **shown his true colours** today, I’m afraid. Not a great **communicator**. I need to activate Plan B. ”

CHAPTER 4

THE DEPUTY MINISTER'S ASSISTANT had spent ten minutes trying to find a **parking space** and was late arriving. As he entered the restaurant, he looked around. At that time of the morning, the place was **all but** empty. At a table in the far corner, a woman was sitting, talking on her phone. She looked over and waved.

"I'll have to go, Libby," she said, **hurriedly** finishing the phone call, "he's arrived."

"Susan. How are you?" the man greeted her. "I hope you're not too disappointed that it's me and not the Deputy Minister who's here. He had an unexpected meeting he couldn't **get out of**."

"I understand," said Susan King. "He's a busy man. **You'll do just as well**," she said, her **vermilion** lips **framing** a perfect set of white teeth as she smiled at him. "In fact... I'm quite sure you're more important in the **grand scheme** of things, Robert."

"You **flatter** me," the assistant smiled, as Susan picked one of her bags up off the floor and took out a **buff** folder.

The waitress came over.

"I've already ordered," said Susan King.

"I'll have the **kippers**," said the assistant, "and a double espresso and grapefruit juice."

"It makes a change to see someone brave enough to have a **proper** breakfast at one of these early meetings," Susan King said. "Anyway, to business... I suppose you are familiar with what we're doing at the moment..."

“I am,” said the assistant. “I’ve spoken to the big boss, and read the things you emailed us. It was all very **thorough**. And we very much like what we see.”

“I’m pleased to hear it,” said Susan.

“And you’re in the final **stages** of the **trials**...”

“That’s right.”

They sat and talked about the new drug for half an hour. As the meeting **drew to a close**, Susan stood up.

“Sorry, I’ve got to **dash**, I’ve got a meeting in ten minutes in the office,” she said, picking up her bag.

They shook hands and she **headed for** the exit.

“Susan, **hang on**... haven’t you forgotten something?” the assistant said, **indicating** the leather bag beside the chair she’d been sitting in.

“It’s for your boss,” she said, returning. “I thought you knew.”

“Of course... I see.”

When she’d gone, the assistant picked up the bag. There was a **combination lock**, but the **clasp** was open. He went to close it and stopped, unable to **resist** a quick **peek** inside. He didn’t know what he was expecting, but it wasn’t the **bundle** of money he found.

1. Choose the correct answer a or b.

[check the answer]

1. Dr King appeared...

a. dishevelled.

b. well-groomed.

2. The symbol of hope in a chaotic world derives from...

a. ancient beliefs.

b. English poetry.

3. The Deputy Minister’s assistant...

a. was running late for the meeting.

b. came just on time.

4. Dr King will be holidaying in a place...

a. that borders France.

b. close to where Tyreman honeymooned.

5. That morning the restaurant seemed...

a. very busy.

b. devoid of customers.

6. The assistant....

a. couldn‘t open the bag because of the combination lock.

b. found that the bag was already open.

7. Although he was not supposed to, the assistant...

a. took the money from the bag.

b. had a look in the bag.

2. Match the words with their definitions.

[check the answer]

1. immaculate

2. fret

3. turret

a. to worry about something

b. a small tower on top of a building

c. detailed; meticulous

4. falcon	**d.** neat and tidy
5. buzz	**e.** a bird of prey with pointed wings
6. thorough	**f.** a continuous noise

3. Fill in the gaps with the words from exercise 2.

[check the answer]

1. The ..... of chatter stopped as soon as my uncle came into the room.
2. Don't ..... , love! I'm here to sort everything out.
3. ..... are capable of grabbing their prey in mid-flight.
4. Clad in ..... clothes and high-heels, Susan swaggered into the office.
5. Although the monastery has been renovated quite recently, most of its fragile ..... didn't withstand the notoriously strong winds of this area.
6. The students were asked to carry out ..... research and hand in their papers by the end of term.

4. Complete the sentences with the missing word – the number of letters is given.

[check the answer]

1. ‘Please be **s**_ _ _ _ _ ,’ said the headmaster as she walked into the classroom.
2. Having **h**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ devoured his breakfast, Mark made a dash for school.
3. This is the very magic potion you need. **T**_ _ _ _ _ _ lies the key to your super strength.
4. If I hadn’t spilled the beans, Jane certainly wouldn’t have shown her true **c**_ _ _ _ _ _ .
5. Don’t be fooled by his filthy habits, he’s no beggar! On the contrary, he’s been living in clover ever since he found a **b**_ _ _ _ _ _ of money in a skip.
6. We’re sorry, madam, for putting you to such **i**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and we do hope you’ll enjoy the rest of your stay.

5. Match the words with their antonyms.

[check the answer]

1. flatter	**a.** improve
2. distend	**b.** castigate
3. deteriorate	**c.** shrink
4. clemency	**d.** clear
5. puzzling	**e.** idly
6. hurriedly	**f.** cruelty

CHAPTER 5

GERRY KING WAS SITTING in his office talking on the phone. “Are your exams the real reason you’re ringing me, Libby?”

“Well, not really. I’m worried, dad, about money.”

“I can transfer you some if you’**re short of funds**.”

“No, it’s not that. It’s the cost of university. I was talking about it yesterday with Mac. You know, I don’t want to **end up** living in some **fleapit** shared flat with **mould** **crawling** up the walls and with someone who never washes the sink and who I **have** nothing **in common with**.”

“Don’t worry, we’ll **sort** something **out**. There’s plenty of time.”

“And I don’t want to end up **doing shifts** in some coffee shop with middle-aged men **leering** at me over their cappuccino...”

“Libby, I do believe we’ve **turned you into** some kind of **work-shy** prima donna...”

“Don’t joke, dad, I’m serious.”

Gerry was quiet for a couple of seconds. “Listen, everything will be okay. We’ll sort it out. How do you **fancy** a short break to **take your mind off things**?”

“Where?”

“Well, you know we’re off on holiday to the villa. You don’t fancy coming, do you? We can get you a flight easy enough. All expenses paid. Dom Perignon for breakfast, lunch and dinner if you want.”

“What’s the **catch**?”

“There isn’t one.”

“Come on, dad, I know you and your **scheming**. I can hear it in your voice.”

“Actually, there is something. But **keep schtum** to your mother, okay?”

“I promise.”

CHAPTER 6

MAC WAS SITTING **cross-legged** in his **holey** cricket jumper, with **his back against** a big, old oak tree, a couple of hundred metres from the **boundary** of the cricket **pitch**. The sun was **blazing** hot and it was a perfect June afternoon for doing nothing. He watched Libby leave the school building and put her sunglasses on. As she walked across the freshly **mown** grass, she **shimmered** in the heat **haze**. When she noticed Mac watching, she slowed down, and began to **sashay** towards him. Mac took a gold cigarette case from his pocket, opened it and took out the joint he had lovingly **crafted** earlier in his room. With it in his hand, he slowly waved to Libby and she **speeded up perceptibly**.

“Is that what I think it is?” she said, as she sat down.

“It is,” he said, offering it to her.

“You know that if we get caught, we’ll be in big trouble after what happened last week,” she laughed, **referring to** the **suspension** of two 15-year-olds from the school for drug **offences**.

“I’m prepared to take the risk if you are. And besides, everyone’s more interested in the cricket than what we’re doing,” he said, pointing to the people at the far side of the cricket pitch.

“Well, you’d better **light me up then**,” said Libby.

As the effects of the joint **crept over them**, they **lounged** back and became **absorbed** in the cricket.

“I can’t think of a **finer** way to spend time,” Mac said **eventually**.

“I can,” Libby said. “I’m off to the Riviera next week.”

“Can I come?” Mac said, **easing** himself into the lotus position.

“Are you serious?” Libby asked five minutes later.

“Might be.”

“You know, I would invite you... but my parents have rented a villa with some friends. And I think big fish in the pharma world shouldn’t be seen **entertaining** the son of the Minister of Health...”

“Sounds like an **excuse** to me.”

“I’m serious. If anyone **got wind of it**, there’d be trouble.”

“You think the paparazzi will be out on the Riviera for your parents?” Mac asked lazily.

“For me,” Libby replied, **blowing** him a kiss. “Anyway, you’d only be bored, I’m afraid.”

“And you won’t be?” asked Mac as the **batsman** struck a **lusty** shot their way.

“No. I have plans. I’m on a mission,” Libby said with a dreamy look in her eye, watching the ball roll towards them. “And I’m hoping you have something for me.”

“Tomorrow. I’ll see him tonight. Two grams you wanted, right?”

“That’s right. Just enough to make the holiday **go with a swing**.”

1. Match the parts to create full sentences.

[check the answer]

1. I don’t want to end up doing shifts	**a.** there’d be trouble.
2. It seems you've been turned	**b.** over them, they lounged back and relaxed.

3. If anyone got wind of it,	**c.** in some coffee shop with ageing men leering at me.
4. As the effects of the joint crept	**d.** to take your mind off things?
5. Do you fancy a short break	**e.** into some kind of work-shy prima donna.
6. The sun was blazing hot	**f.** and it was a perfect afternoon for doing nothing.

2. Match the words with their synonyms.

[check the answer]

indolent **glimmer** **pierced** **strut** **glow** **fungus** **sparkle** **perforated** **scorching** **swagger** **boiling** **idle** **mildew** **engrossed** **immersed**

1. holey .....

2. blazing (hot) .....

3. shimmer .....

4. sashay .....

5. work-shy .....

6. mould .....

7. absorbed .....

3. Choose the correct answer.

[check the answer]

1. If you don’t keep ..... about it, Joe, you’ll get yourself into hot water. I mean it!

- **a.** secret
- **b.** surreptitious
- **c.** schtum
- **d.** lousy

2. I do hope her ..... attitude won’t rub off on him. Otherwise, he’s bound to start shirking his duties.

- **a.** work-shy
- **b.** tedious
- **c.** evasive
- **d.** elusive

3. Had Adam not left me in the lurch, the party would have gone with a ..... .

- **a.** force
- **b.** power
- **c.** swing
- **d.** shot

4. The business trip was by no means a respite for Anna. She’s hoping, at least, to be reimbursed for her travel ..... .

- **a.** expenditure
- **b.** rip-off
- **c.** windfall
- **d.** expenses

5. No steps have yet been taken to alleviate the plight of the residents whose houses have ..... roofs.

a. holey

b. holy

c. whole

d. wholesome

6. When the fumes from the flask ..... over them, they went simply berserk!

a. overwhelmed

b. crept

c. reached

d. encroached

7. She did ..... me a kiss, didn‘t she? She must fancy me then, right?

a. send

b. blow

c. air

d. post

4. Complete the sentence using the word in blue and retaining the meaning of the first sentence. Do not change the word given.

[check the answer]

1. If anyone finds out about it, we’re done for.

WIND

If ..... , we’re done for.

2. You don’t have to follow the mainstream to become popular.

BANDWAGON

You don’t have to ..... to become popular.

3. You mustn’t confess under any circumstances!

OWN

Under no circumstances ..... .

4. I really regret taking part in this competition.

PARTICIPATED

If only ..... .

5. Keep it under your hat or else we’ll be in trouble.

SCHTUM

Unless ..... , we’ll be in trouble.

6. No one has repaired our leaking roof yet.

HAD

We ..... yet.

5. Decide if the following sentences are right or not. Correct the wrong ones.

[check the answer]

1. Even though it was very exhausting research, it failed to cover all the points we wanted.

.....

2. It’s getting on midnight so it’s high time we were getting back to the camp.

.....

3. No sooner does Mary get her salary than she splurges half of it on clothes!

.....

4. We could pay neither by cash nor by credit card. They accepted cheques only!

.....

5. My grandfather prides himself in being able to remember all the names of the pets we’ve had.

.....

6. My father whose house was flooded last week wants to have it done up as soon as possible.

.....

7. This is the last time I‘ve brought you here. Why are you being so disobedient and brusque?

.....

PART 2

CHAPTER 7

THE BIG, OLD MERCEDES taxi **pulled up** at the gates.

“I hope this is the right villa,” Leslie Gunn said to John as she got out.

“If I’m not mistaken, I can hear laughter coming from somewhere nearby. It must be our **lot**.”

“Anyone home?” shouted Leslie, as the taxi sped off down the **hillside** road, leaving a **plume** of dust behind it. Gerry appeared from round the side of the villa, carrying a **magnum** of champagne and two empty glasses.

“Bonjour, Monsieur,” Leslie said with a **Gallic** **flourish**.

“Last ones to arrive,” Gerry said, as he swung the heavy iron gates open and kissed Leslie’s hand in a **continental** way. “Drink?”

“We wouldn’t say no, it’s been a **tortuous** journey,” John said, as they followed Gerry round the back of the villa. “Everyone’s here then?”

“Actually, no. I’m forgetting my daughter.”

“Liberty’s coming?” asked Leslie.

“Yes, she’s the surprise guest. She’ll be here later this evening. She’s just finished her exams at school and we thought it would be a good break for her.”

“With a **load** of middle-aged **folk** like us?”

“She said that was part of the attraction. One thing though... you’d better not let her catch you calling her Liberty. She’s Libby nowadays.”

With the **approach** of night came the chorus of the **cicadas**, rising out of the **scrub** grass beneath the eucalyptus trees. The group had moved on

from champagne to Prosecco and were sitting around a **rustic** table, dining **al fresco** by the pool.

“It’s been a long time, Alan,” said John Gunn to the man he was sitting next to. “Still doing the same thing I hear. You never thought of **getting out**? Being a GP[7] can’t be much fun these days.”

“Was it ever,” Alan Stevens said, with a **hangdog** expression on his face. “It does **cross my mind** more and more often. But there’s money to be made nowadays for GPs, if they understand the system and **play the game**.”

“I see...” said John Gunn. “And what game’s that?”

“You know... **quotas**... targets... making wise choices,” Alan said **cryptically**. “Anyway, I don’t envy you, John. I was looking at a ranking of doctors’ stress levels and A&E doctors were right at the top. Haven’t you ever thought of getting out?” he asked, **bouncing** John’s question **back** to him.

“Every day... every single day,” he said with a laugh, which was interrupted by the **blaring** of a car horn.

“That’ll be Libby,” said Gerry, getting up and heading towards the gates.

Seconds later, a Toyota Land Cruiser drove round the side of the house and stopped. The driver’s door opened and out stepped Libby, a vision in white, waving at the guests. “Hello, everyone, I hope you’ve got a drink for me,” she said, walking over to the table.

“Champagne okay, dear?” Susan asked.

“Perfect. Dad... can you get my bag out and take it to my room? I’ve got a bit of **catching up** to do,” she said moving round the guests one by one, kissing them.

The following afternoon, the others had jumped in the Land Cruiser and gone off for a drive in the hills, leaving John Gunn **lounging** on his

bed, fighting with sleep as he tried to read his book. After half an hour, he went into the kitchen, opened a 1997 Chablis that he found in the fridge, and relocated to a **sun lounger** by the side of the pool. Feeling the effects of the alcohol **trickling** through his nervous system to his head, he **dropped** his book on the floor beside him and **nodded off**. Against the sound of the breeze **rustling** the leaves of the eucalyptus trees, he heard **flip-flops** coming towards him. Opening his eyes, he looked up and saw Libby's Amazonian **silhouette** framed by a **halo** of bright sunlight. He put his sunglasses on, focussed, and sat up.

"I thought you'd gone with the others," he said **groggily**.

"No. I was a bit tired after the **travails** of getting here yesterday, and the evening **libations**. Mind if I sit down?" she asked.

John shook his head. "Be my guest."

"Reading anything interesting?" Libby asked.

"*Lolita*. "

John lay back down and closed his eyes, and Libby **followed suit**. For a while, they were both lost in their thoughts. Then Libby suddenly sat up. **Perched on** the edge of the sun lounger, she opened her handbag and took out a carved **ivory** tablet box. "Have you ever tried this?" she asked. John Gunn opened his eyes, as she leaned his way, and lifted the **lid** to **reveal** some white powder.

"I don't suppose that's the latest flu **remedy** from your dad's company."

"You suppose right," she said. "Fancy a bit?"

"Not for me," John Gunn said. "I'm too old for that sort of thing."

"Come on, they won't be back for at least a couple of hours. It won't do you any harm," she said, lifting her head to look at him. "And besides, dad said you and him were **partial** when you were medical students."

“He told you that, did he? Well, that was a long time ago.”

“Come on, Dr Gunn... **Live a little**,” she said **teasingly**.

Suddenly, she closed the lid, put the box down on the lounger, and jumped up, walking on tiptoes to the edge of the pool. Dropping her **sarong** on the floor, she **arched** her back and dived in. **Drowsy** with the wine and sun, John was transfixed by her **graceful** form as it **glided effortlessly** through the turquoise water. Presently, she came to rest and her head appeared over the side of the pool. After **gazing** at him for a minute, she **hoisted** herself out and walked back to the sun lounger, leaving a trail of water behind her.

“Well? Shall we do it?”

“What the hell... why not,” said John.

The two lines which she **measured out** on the cover of his book underlined the title. She handed him a rolled-up 20 Euro note. “After you,” she said.

When they’d completed the ritual, they looked at each other **mischievously**. Libby stood up, **towering over** him. “I’m going for a dip. Are you coming?”

“Maybe in a while.”

Libby walked over to the pool and **cast off** her bikini top. John could feel his heart quickening as she bent over to push an **inflatable** crocodile into the water, jumped in after it, and disappeared underwater. After what seemed like an eternity, she re-emerged and climbed onto the **reptile**. **Bewitched**, John watched her floating around in the **twinkling** water.

“I think I’ll spend the afternoon by the pool,” John said.

“Are you sure?” Leslie asked. “Gerry’s organised a trip to the perfume factory in Grasse this afternoon. Then a picnic on the beach at that **secluded cove** near Cap d’Ail.”

“I’ll stay... I can’t seem to put *Lolita* down...”

“Okay, **have it your way**,” said Leslie with an **edge** of disappointment to her voice.

“Come on, Leslie,” shouted Gerry from the car. “Let John have a rest if he wants to.”

Libby watched as the car drove out of the gates, went to the kitchen for a half bottle of champagne and two glasses, before joining John outside. “Drink?”

“Why not,” he replied.

“We’ve got all afternoon, they won’t be back before at least 6,” Libby said as she handed him his glass.

“What are you reading?” John asked, noticing the book Libby had **slipped under** the lounger.

“Ovid’s *Ars Amatoria*[8]. Have you read it?”

“Can’t say I have. Sounds like you’ve got a **challenging** afternoon ahead of you reading that.”

“I don’t plan to do much reading,” she said, with a mischievous smile.

John sat back, opened his book and **made a pretence of** reading for a while. But the citron smell of Libby’s perfume drifting his way on the breeze kept distracting him.

“You seem to be **struggling** there, John. You’ve turned the page once in fifteen minutes.”

“I can’t concentrate. I keep thinking about yesterday afternoon.”

“The **rejuvenating** effects of the Columbian marching powder[9]?”

“Amongst other things.”

“Fancy a **reprise**?”

“**Do I**,” John said enthusiastically.

John was just stepping out of the shower when Leslie came into the room shortly before 7. “Good afternoon?” he asked.

“Lovely. I bought you a present,” his wife replied. “Some lemon cologne from the perfumery.”

“Perfect **timing**, I’ve just had a shave,” he said, opening the bottle and **splashing** some of the cologne on his face.

“Did you finish the book?” Leslie asked.

“The book... in the end, I didn’t get far with it. We had a couple of drinks by the pool and I nodded off.”

CHAPTER 8

“HAVE YOU CALLED HIM YET?” Susan asked.

“I **was** just **about to**,” Gerry replied. “I’ll be back in a while.”

Susan watched Gerry leave the villa and walk off along the **dusty track**.

“Where’s he going to?” Alan asked.

“Work. He’s got an important call to make. He can never **sit still** when he’s on the phone.”

Once he was a few hundred metres down the road, Gerry took out his phone.

“Gerry. Enjoying your holiday?” the voice on the other end of the line asked.

“I am. And I’ll be enjoying it even more when you tell me you’ve sorted things out.”

“Everything’s taken care of, don’t worry.”

“Good. What happened?”

“I went to see him in the hospital, but he’d been **discharged**...”

“Discharged? That’s a good thing then, I suppose...”

“For us it is... I **went round** his house.”

“What sort of state was he in then?”

“He was still having **a fair bit** of trouble breathing. He’s got this **portable oxygen tank** he wheels around with him. He told me the doctors told him his lungs should get back to at least 90% of what they were, and most likely 100%.”

“Was he upset about what happened?”

“He knew the risks. He admitted as much. And then when I explained to him the **compensation package**, he was more than satisfied.”

“Did he sign the **confidentiality agreement**?”

“Yes.”

“Well, Martin, job well done.”

“It was all very **amicable**. Anyway, I won’t waste any more of your holiday.”

Half an hour after leaving, Gerry walked back into the garden of the villa.

“Well?” asked Susan.

“All sorted,” said Gerry. “We can **proceed** with the final part of the trials without worrying.”

“That’s a **relief**.”

1. Decide if the statement is true (T), false (F), or the text does not say anything about it (D).

[check the answer]

1. Leslie was expecting Libby to arrive with her parents. **T / F / D**

2. Libby objects to being called Liberty because she thinks it sounds snooty. **T / F / D**

3. Working in a casualty department can be nerve-racking. **T / F / D**

4. Libby was so parched after the drive that she was longing for a drink. **T / F / D**

5. At first, Libby didn't manage to coax John into trying the drug. **T / F / D**

6. After sniffing the drug, John was imagining that Libby was swimming topless. **T / F / D**

7. The man was browbeaten into signing the confidentiality agreement. **T / F / D**

2. Match the words with their synonyms.

[check the answer]

1. distract	**a.** arcane
2. cryptic	**b.** solitary
3. transfixed	**c.** divulge
4. nod off	**d.** mesmerized
5. secluded	**e.** doze off
6. reveal	**f.** divert

3. Complete the sentences with words from the crossword.

[check the answer]

1. The car zoomed off, leaving a ..... of dust behind it.

2. Dazzled by the sunlight, I only saw the assailant's ..... .

3. Having got out of bed, Suzy yawned and trudged towards the kitchen feeling rather ..... .

4. It’s a lovely day, let’s dine ..... !

4. Translate the missing parts of the sentences.

[check the answer]

1. Poszedłem odwiedzić go w szpitalu, ale wypisali go.

..... see him
..... .

2. Czy on podpisał umowę poufności?

..... ?

3. Nadal miał spore problemy z oddychaniem.

..... a fair
..... .

4. Wszystkim się zająłem, nie martw się.

..... of, don’t
..... .

5. Ma ważny telefon do wykonania. Poza tym nigdy nie może usiedzieć, kiedy rozmawia przez telefon.

..... to make. Besides, he
..... .

6. Wypiliśmy kilka drinków przy basenie i przysnąłem.

..... off.

7. Nie myślałeś nigdy, żeby się przebranżowić?

..... out?

8. No dalej, zaszalej! To ci nie zaszkodzi!

Come ..... little! It ..... !

9. Przez parę minut udawał, że czyta.

For a ..... reading.

5. Translate the words or phrases in brackets to complete the sentences.

[check the answer]

1. I’m considering coming off these pills – I’ve felt ..... (senny) ever since I started taking them.

2. I thought there was someone lurking outside my house but now I think it was just the ..... (szelest) of leaves.

3. As soon as the model ..... (zrzucać) her clothes, the painter blushed and grew hot.

4. We cannot possibly ..... (wypisać ze szpitala) you, sir, until we’ve run a few more tests to make sure there’s nothing wrong with your liver.

5. ..... (półprzytomny) and exhausted after the long journey, the poor chap didn’t even remember where he had left his luggage.

6. Mind you, if we had brought the .....
(nadmuchiwany) dinghy, we would have reached the opposite bank of the river long ago.

CHAPTER 9

FOR THE FINAL EVENING, Gerry had planned a **fancy dress party**.

When John emerged from the Gunn's bedroom after a **lengthy** siesta, there was already a carnival **air** out on the patio, although none of them had yet **donned** the costumes they'd been carefully hiding in their suitcases. Once the second bottle of champagne was standing empty on the table, the couples retired to their rooms to get **dressed up**. When they emerged **on the stroke of** 7 o' clock, there were a few surprises. Gerry, **trailing** a **forked** tail behind him, was dressed as the devil, and Susan an angel. John was dressed as a cowboy, and Leslie as a cowgirl. Alan and Carla Stevens were dressed as Tarzan and Jane. They all stood and looked at each other.

Gerry was the first one to laugh. "Well, you've all **done** my idea **proud**."

"Where's Libby?" asked Alan Stevens.

"She'll be out in a minute," said Susan.

"If you two are angel and devil, then what's she coming as..." **pondered** Alan.

"You'll just have to wait and see," said Gerry, as he **popped** another bottle of champagne and began to fill the glasses.

A minute later, Libby emerged from the **shade** of the villa into the warm evening light. All heads turned **in anticipation**, and there were some wide eyes when they saw her nurse's costume. They all received a glass from Gerry and raised a toast to the final evening, before thoughts turned to preparing the food.

Once everyone was absorbed in their individual tasks, Libby **sidled** over to John. “Perhaps you’d like me to take your pulse,” she said, loud enough that Alan Stevens **overheard**.

“You can do mine as well, Libby,” he said, winking at her.

Aping French tradition, the dinner was a **drawn-out affair**, **comprising** seven courses, each accompanied by its own wine. As the evening progressed, and the **booze** continued to **flow**, the conversation became more and more lively, and Libby became more and more talkative. John, observing her with great interest, began to suspect that she was **fuelled by** more than alcohol. The others, however, were drunk enough that they didn’t seem to notice. As they **neared** the end of the meal, there finally came a moment when they were all sitting around the table, and Libby had **taken centre stage**.

“I’m reading this book,” she said, “and in it the characters represent the seven sins. *Sins*, it’s called...”

“Don’t tell us you want us to play charades[10],” Alan said, **expectantly**.

“Let me finish, will you? Anyway, what I was going to say was that the thing that surprised me most as I was reading it... I’ve finished it now, you see... but what surprised me was that I couldn’t actually **name** the seven deadly sins. Now, I’d imagine there’s not many people who can. What do you think? Would I be right?” she asked, her **eyes darting round** the group.

“I think I’d struggle,” John said.

“Okay,” said Libby, “you start with the first. Take your cowboy hat off and get your thinking cap on, John. Then let’s go round the table. There’s six of you. I’m not playing because I know the answers. So that’s one each and then we’re back to you, John, for the last. That’s **assuming** that

you all manage to **come up with** one of the sins. Which I doubt. Shall we **give it a go**? And if you don't get them all, then there's a **forfeit**."

They all nodded in agreement.

"Then perhaps we can **act them out**," said Libby with a naughty smile to Alan.

"Let's see how it goes," Gerry said to his daughter, **fearful** of how things might end up.

"Go on then, John. **Get the ball rolling**."

"Pride," said John, decisively. "That one's easy enough. You next, Leslie."

Leslie looked at the **remains** of the food that was on the table. "**Gluttony**."

As they went round the table, John was surprised, and more than a little relieved, by how easily the answers came out. Envy. Anger. **Greed**. **Sloth**. Suddenly, all eyes were on him again.

"Come on, John," said Libby, "the last one's easy."

"**My mind's gone blank**," he confessed.

Libby licked her lips and **wiggled** her hips, and they all laughed.

"Is that a **clue**?" asked John.

"I believe it is," said Libby. "Think back to the other afternoon."

"I would have said sloth," John said quickly, "but we've already had that."

"Come on, John," said Libby, licking her lips again.

"Give the poor man time to think," said Carla.

Suddenly, it came to him. The image of Libby floating around the pool. "I think I've got it... **Blasphemy**?"

"No," said Libby.

"**Lust**," said Leslie.

“That’s a good wife. Helping her husband out like that,” Alan laughed.

Conveniently, the forfeit seemed to have been forgotten, and conversation turned to other subjects. After a few minutes, Libby sat down beside John Gunn.

“You’**re high**, aren’t you?” he whispered.

“As a kite...” she **giggled** quietly.

“You haven’t sat still for the last hour, and have hardly stopped talking.”

“Well, John, it is the last night,” she said. “There’s only a bit of this powder left and I’m not taking it home. Do you want some?”

“Yes. Come on. Let’s slip inside. Nobody’ll notice. They’re all drunk.”

“I’ll **nip in**,” Libby said. “Then you follow when **the coast’s clear**. I’ll be in my room.”

Five minutes later, John slipped into Libby’s room. When his eyes had **adjusted** to the darkness, he saw her lying on her back on the bed.

“What are you doing?” he whispered.

She pointed to her **exposed** stomach, where a line of cocaine had been perfectly measured out.

“Where’s yours?” he asked.

In reply, she pointed to her nose, as she handed him a rolled--up note.

Half an hour later, John Gunn’s thoughts, like his pulse, were **racing**. Every time he **dared** to look at Libby, she flashed him a smile **dripping** in **wickedness**. He was convinced that someone would catch one of their exchanges, and **forced** himself to **look away**. As dessert was being brought out, Gerry sidled over and sat down beside John, **placing** a conspiratorial hand on his shoulder.

“**Quite a night**. You enjoying yourself?”

“You could say that. I haven’t had this much fun in years. And I might not ever again,” John said, laughing.

“Listen, John, do you think you could **give me a hand** making the coffee?”

“It might do me good to move a little,” John said, jumping up from his seat. “Let’s hurry up or there’ll be no dessert left.”

When they were in the kitchen and **spooning** coffee into the cafetieres, Gerry took John by surprise.

“I’ve got a proposition for you... How do you fancy coming to work for us?”

John turned his head towards Gerry, but continued making the coffee, saying nothing.

“Well?” asked Gerry after a while. “Aren’t you **curious**?”

“You surprised me there. I suppose I would be curious if I wasn’t already happy enough doing what I’m doing.”

“In A&E... it’s no picnic, is it? Wouldn’t you like to **try your hand at** something a bit more... **agreeable**?”

“I haven’t really thought about it. But I’m too old to be making career changes. And besides which, I am happy doing what I’m doing.”

“I don’t doubt it. But think about it. The **benefits**.”

“The money, you mean?”

“No. **There’s more to it than that**. It’s a lot more civilised than working in A&E. You don’t have drunks **throwing up** on you or **nutters** threatening to **knife** you on a Friday night. We could use a man of your expertise.”

“What are you looking for then?”

“Well, we have a couple of new drugs coming to the end of their clinical trials. It won’t be long. Which means we have some negotiations ahead.”

“Lobbying?”

“Ah... the ‘L’ word... Call it that if you like. But I prefer to call it negotiating, or perhaps marketing. Or even public relations. Communication of information. We have to let people know about the benefits of what we’ve developed.”

“I see.”

“We’ve been going through the recruitment process for a while and we’ve managed to **narrow down** the candidates to two. One of them had the better experience, the other seemed a bit more dynamic. But not long before I came away, I had an interview with the **bloke** I thought was my preferred option, and he just seemed like **a bit of** a **duffer**. Not **sharp** enough. You know, he was there for this meeting at a very advanced stage of the recruitment process and I had to explain the company logo to him.”

“A bit of a gaffe.”

“**I should say so**. I was wondering what to do, when it suddenly **struck** me that you could do the job... a bloody good job...”

“It’s not my field really, is it?”

“Not exactly. And yet, **in a way** it is. You know how things work. We have almost telepathic communication...”

John **snorted** with laughter. “That’s **going a bit too far**, Gerry.”

“Well, maybe. But what I mean is I trust you. I know exactly what you’re capable of. Come on... think about it... please. We don’t need an immediate decision.”

John said nothing, as he poured water into the cafetieres.

“So will you think it over?” Gerry asked.

“Sure, why not,” John said. “But there are more **pressing** things now. Let’s get this coffee out onto the terrace.”

1. Choose the best answer a, b or c.

[check the answer]

1. At the fancy dress party...
- **a.** everyone had donned a costume.
- **b.** Libby refused to wear a costume.
- **c.** no two people shared a theme.

2. At the beginning of the party...
- **a.** Alan was already tipsy.
- **b.** Libby attempted to stealthily get closer to John.
- **c.** Libby and John bickered.

3. Why was the dinner lavish and lengthy?
- **a.** Because it followed Gallic customs.
- **b.** Because it was Gerry’s wish to have a sumptuous feast.
- **c.** Because it was held to celebrate Libby’s passed exams.

4. John sensed Libby was stoned because...
- **a.** she was talking gibberish.
- **b.** her pupils were dilated.
- **c.** she was animated and chatty.

5. The drug John inhaled...
- **a.** quickened his heartbeat.
- **b.** kicked in straightaway.

c. made him feel groggy.

2. Translate the phrases in brackets.

[check the answer]

1. Perhaps you'd like to _____ (spróbować) golf. The rules aren't as perplexing as you think.
2. As soon as I entered the classroom and saw the examiners, my _____ (mieć pustkę w głowie).
3. Come on, guys, _____ (droga wolna)! We must cross the river before they see us.
4. Chess is by no means a difficult game, Mark.

   _____

   _____ (Spróbuj[11]) and you'll see.
5. Could you _____ (pomóc mi) with this wardrobe? It's too heavy for me to move.
6. Jane is very coy and taciturn and that's why she didn't want to _____ (być w centrum uwagi).

3. Write the seven deadly sins and provide their Polish translations.

[check the answer]

1. l_ _ _ → .....
2. g_ _ _ _ _ _ _ → .....
3. g_ _ _ _ → .....

4. s_ _ _ _ → .....

5. w_ _ _ _ → .....

6. e_ _ _ → .....

7. p_ _ _ _ → .....

4. Find six meaningful words and use them in the correct form to complete the sentences.

[check the answer]

1. 'Any contraband such as fags, dope or ..... will be confiscated before we enter the guesthouse,' said the teacher.
2. Tom seems to be a very ..... man. No wonder the kids have taken a shine to him.
3. Stop ..... , girls, and behave yourselves! Have you forgotten we're in church?
4. You can't have your arms and legs ..... if you want to visit this shrine.

5. According to Wikipedia, ... is ‘the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God.’

6. Is it true that snakes hiss louder because they have a ..... tongue?

PART 3

CHAPTER 10

WHEN THE DEPUTY MINISTER'S assistant had handed the bag over to his boss, weeks of **nagging** questions had begun. He closed the door to his room, went over to his computer and typed 5 letters into the search engine – CFSMS. He knew very well what they **stood for** – **Counter Fraud** and Security Management Service – as he liked to consider it, the Health Service's very own team of detectives. What might he be able to do, he wondered.

Although the money in the bag from Susan King seemed a large amount for a pharmaceutical **executive** to be giving to a senior ministerial official, he didn't know what it was for. Over the last few days, he had **toyed with the idea** of reporting the money to someone. But who to? And how? What could he say? Suspicion, he reflected, is not enough. And he suspected someone would hear about what he'd done. He might lose his job. Or be **moved sideways**.

There was a knock at the door. "Come in."

The Deputy Minister walked in and his assistant quickly closed the webpages that were open.

"Are you busy, Robert?"

"Nothing that can't wait," he said, looking very carefully at his boss.

"Is everything okay?"

"Yes... I'm just a little tired..."

CHAPTER 11

AS THE BLUE SKIES OF the South of France **melted away** like a **mirage**, John Gunn's mood slowly **sank**. His first day back at work had been **uneventful** as days at the hospital went, but his second day was one of those days that seemed to be sent to test everyone to their limits. In the early morning **gloom** and **drizzle**, in the time it had taken him to park the car, he had already seen two ambulances rolling up to A&E.

"What's going on?" he asked Kim Nicholls as he walked into the reception area.

"**All hands to the deck**," she said. "There's been an **outbreak** of food poisoning. The first victim was brought in in the middle of the night. A grandmother. **Severely dehydrated**. We've now had six cases. Either kids or grandparents. People throwing up everywhere. It's not pretty."

"What caused it? Any ideas?"

"It looks like the **source** is a children's birthday party. Ice cream or cake probably. They're doing tests."

"Salmonella?" asked John Gunn.

"Looks like it. Classic symptoms... **diarrhoea**... vomiting... stomach **cramps**... fever."

"And have we got the appropriate procedures **in place**?"

"Yes. We've isolated the six cases we've had in **so far**."

In the next hour, two more old people were wheeled in with drips attached to their arms and taken to the isolation area. They were speedily **assessed**, and given the appropriate medication.

"It's like a **production line**," John said.

“Yes, but at least we can **deal with** them quickly now.”

Through the doors, an ambulance could be seen pulling up outside.

“Here’s another one,” John said. “We’ll be running out of room in a minute.”

But when the doors opened and the paramedics came in, it wasn’t another case of salmonella.

“What have we got here then?” John asked, looking at the young man with the oxygen mask on his face and closed eyes.

“James Atherton. 21. Involved in an RTC[12]. He was unconscious when we arrived. Has since **regained** consciousness. **Trauma injury** to the head. **Superficial** face wounds. Bruising on the chest. GCS has **fluctuated** between 12 and 14 on the way in. BP 130 over 80. Pulse 88. Sats 97%. He’s had 5 of morphine and 20 of ketamine.”

“Take him through,” said Dr Nicholls.

“And by the way,” said the paramedic, “they’re just cutting his passenger out, so there’ll be another one coming soon. In an even worse state I’d say.”

“Wonderful,” John said, “that’s all we need.”

It was almost five hours into the **shift** before John Gunn found the time to go to the doctors’ room and have a sit-down and a cup of coffee for ten minutes.

“Have you washed your hands?” Dr Nicholls said, laughing sardonically.

“I’ve been doing nothing else for the last five hours. The **joys** of being a doctor in A&E, eh?”

“Quite. Anyway, tell me, how was the holiday?” asked Dr Nicholls, as John sat down.

“**Enlightening**,” came the enigmatic reply.

“Why? What did you **get up to**?”

“Not much really. Read a couple of books. Explored the local area. Drank a lot of local wine. It was just the people we were with.”

“I thought they were all doctors.”

“They were. **By qualification**. But two of them work for a pharmaceutical company. And the other two are GPs. You just get to see a different side of things. Makes you think.”

“About what?”

“Oh, I don’t know... different things.”

There was a noise from John’s phone, but he didn’t react.

“You’ve got a message.”

“Ah, yes. I was just thinking about the holiday,” he said, taking the phone from his pocket.

It was from Libby. John pressed the button on his phone to open the message. “Hello, cowboy”, it read, accompanied by a photo of him **looking the worse for wear** with his cowboy hat **askew** and bandolier round his neck, secretly taken on the final evening. She’ll be back at school for the final week of **term** by now, John thought to himself. He could imagine how she would be enjoying herself and looking forward to the freedom of the summer.

One of the nurses popped her head around the door. Her uniform reminded John of Libby that final evening on the Riviera. “Sorry, you two, you’re needed out here,” said the nurse. “**Things are hotting up** again.”

1. Match the parts to create full sentences.

[check the answer]

1. Over the last few days, he had toyed	**a.** could be seen pulling up outside.
2. The Minister walked in and his Deputy	**b.** the shift before I had a chance to sit down for a sec.
3. Through the doors, an ambulance	**c.** be making plans for the midterm break.
4. It was five hours into	**d.** in with a drip in his arm.
5. He could imagine she would feel relieved and	**e.** with the idea of sharing his suspicions with someone.
6. Later on a boy was wheeled	**f.** shut the webpages.

2. Fill in the gaps with suitable words from the box.

[check the answer]

BP **wound** **pulse** **Sats** **GCS** **aged** **brawl** **fractured** **breathing** **concussion**

Ok, everyone. This is Terry Smith, **(1)** ..... 26, involved in a pub **(2)** ..... .

He has **(3)** ..... ribs and has difficulty **(4)** ..... . Superficial face **(5)** ..... , possible **(6)**

..... . **(7)** ..... 12, **(8)** ..... 140 over 95, **(9)** ..... 95, **(10)** ..... 92%. He is also complaining of a severe headache.

3. Complete the dialogue with suitable words from the box. Two words are redundant.

[check the answer]

fatigued	**diarrhoea**	**sluggish**	**strenuous**	**vomited**	**lost**
symptoms	**appetite**				

D: What's the matter?

P: Well, I've been feeling unwell recently. To begin with, I felt under the weather, a tad **(1)** ..... and torpid. But now I feel constantly **(2)** ..... and worn out. My **(3)** ..... is very poor and I've **(4)** ..... 7 kilos in the last two months.

D: Do you have a strenuous job? Do you also feel tired in the morning?

P: I'm a builder, so I work physically. The problem is I also feel tired after a good night's sleep.

D: Do you experience any other symptoms?

P: Yesterday I had **(5)** ..... even though I didn't eat much. I also **(6)** ..... after supper and it made me even more knackered.

D: Well, the symptoms you described seem to be unrelated, so we'll run a few more tests to see what the problem is. I'll give

you a referral for a blood test and then you'll have to give a sample of your urine for further tests...

4. Choose the best answer.

[check the answer]

1. Your calf ..... are probably due to potassium deficiency.

- **a.** cramps
- **b.** bruises
- **c.** sores
- **d.** outbreaks

2. Ian's a boozer! He was the worse for ..... at yesterday's party.

- **a.** tear
- **b.** wear
- **c.** look
- **d.** head

3. My wife and I are toying ..... the idea of moving to Spain but we haven't made up our minds yet.

- **a.** on
- **b.** at
- **c.** with
- **d.** in

4. My wife is an accountant ..... qualification but she works as a shop assistant.

- **a.** on
- **b.** at

c. by

d. for

5. Last year, petrol prices ..... between 4.90 and 6.10 PLN per litre, so it's slightly cheaper this year.

a. fluctuated

b. transitioned

c. increased

d. plateaued

6. Mark, do you happen to remember when Poland ..... independence?

a. retrieved

b. obtained

c. reached

d. regained

7. It's really surprising that no one here knows what GM ..... for. It shows how little importance you attach to what you eat.

a. takes

b. stands

c. calls

d. brings

CHAPTER 12

MAC WAS LOUNGING ON Libby's bed reading a book. When she opened the door, he looked up. "How was the holiday?"

"**Lively**," she said, with a big smile.

"Weren't you terribly bored with a load of middle-aged doctors?"

"Hardly. To be honest, it got pretty **debauched**..."

Suspecting that Libby was **itching** to tell something, Mac dropped his book on the bed. "Debauched? What the hell did you get up to?"

"My dad had me on a secret mission. He wants to recruit an old friend of his to work with him. He was with us on the holiday. And that's why I **got hold of** the cocaine. To **spice things up** a bit."

"Hold on... your dad **put you up to** getting the cocaine?"

"He knows I do it **now and again**. There's no secrets in our family. And they used to do it when they were at medical school. Help them get through the exam period and for study sessions. Besides, they're doctors. They know that if you're careful, it's harmless enough..."

"Are you serious?"

"Deadly."

"And what does your mother say about it all?"

"She doesn't know."

"Well, Libby, that is fairly debauched."

"That's not all though..." she said with a **revealing look**.

"You didn't... did you?"

Libby nodded.

After a moment's contemplation, Mac shook his head and returned to reading his book. Libby went and sat by the window, looking out across the playing fields where some younger boys were playing hockey. Mac eventually interrupted her **reverie**. "Listen, my parents are having their annual summer cocktail party. You're invited, of course. It's the weekend after Henley Regatta[13]."

"What's the theme this year?"

"*Alice in Wonderland*. My idea. And listen, your parents are invited this year. My parents are curious to meet them. And I've told them they're cool. Do you think they'll want to come?"

"I'm sure they would. They know you well enough and they're always asking when I'm going to introduce them to your **folks**. And you know what my dad's like... always thinking of the business..."

"Oh, and you can bring your new boyfriend too..."

"I'm not sure what his wife would have to say about that," Libby said with a smile of sweet innocence.

CHAPTER 13

GERRY YAWNED AND SAT back in his chair, gazing at the framed sketch on the wall opposite. Alexander Fleming[14] stared down at him. The final clinical trials for the new antibiotic were due to finish by the end of the month. Apart from the two hiccups with the trialists who had suffered adverse reactions, things had gone **smoothly**, and now Gerry found himself looking forward to co-ordinating and **breathing life into** the next phase of the drug's development, which involved a **sizeable** amount of strategic planning and his appearance at a few conferences and symposia to introduce the product to the KOLs[15]. It was a role he **relished** – the **Messiah spreading the word** to his **disciples**.

His phone rang. "Gerry King," he answered.

"Gerry... it's Dave Bowers here. I know you're not long back from holiday, but have you, **by any chance**, had a look at the projects for the new **packaging** for Tricardiopril?"

"I had a quick look, yes..."

"And?"

"Everything looks good. Listen, can I leave it with you, Dave? I've got my work cut out with the Ceftoporzan project at the moment."

"How's it going?"

"Good. We're at a **critical** stage though at the moment. Everything's **coming together**. We're hoping to get the Department of Health's attention **in time for** next year."

"Have you started yet?"

"Yes. Susan's doing her stuff with the Health Department's people. We're making a good impression. But the real **coup** is that we're off to

the Minister's summer cocktail party."

"How did you manage to **pull that off**?"

"Libby goes to school with his son. Such opportunities make the **exorbitant fees** we're paying a little less painful..."

Dave Bowers laughed.

"I'm also hoping to get in a new recruit to the project. To help with communications and marketing," Gerry said.

"Yes... I know you've been interviewing. Any luck yet?"

"No. The two on the shortlist turned out to be a bit **lightweight**. But I'**ve got my eye on** someone else. Do you know John Gunn?"

"I've heard about him from you. He'd be a **valuable link**."

No sooner had Gerry put the phone down than it rang again. It was the receptionist calling, informing him that she had Clive Selkirk on the line.

"Put him through," Gerry said.

"I've been looking at your email, Gerry," Clive said, "I think it makes a lot of sense."

"Is it clear where we are? We're coming to the end of the trials for Ceftoporzan, so we need to start **getting the message out there**. So, in the next couple of weeks we need some friendly articles placing in the right publications. 6th generation antibiotics. Remind people of the benefits of antibiotics. **Downplay** the **efficacy** of homeopathic. You know the sort of thing. A **steady** drip of positive information. Can you do it?"

"Yes. Leave it with me. I'll send you an **outline** of what and where to begin with, and take it from there."

Gerry put the phone down, and it immediately rang again.

"You're Mr Popular today," the receptionist said. "I've got you-know-who here for your weekly coaching session."

“Send him in,” Gerry said.

A minute later, the door opened and the reassuring figure of Martin Merman walked in. “I come **bearing** gifts,” he said.

“And what gifts might they be?” Gerry asked.

“**Pearls of wisdom**,” Martin Merman said with a **straight face**.

“Have you brought the confidentiality agreement for me?”

“Yes. There you go,” he said, handing over a brown A4 envelope.

“And you say he seemed fairly positive about things?”

“Yes, the money **went a long way** to **softening** the **blow**.”

“I think the news about his lungs getting back to full **capacity** was good to hear.”

“Well,” said Merman, “it wasn’t **strictly** true. I managed to convince the doctor to give him **the best case scenario** and dress it up as being likely. The truth is, he’ll probably struggle... Still, I managed to achieve what we wanted – he signed the agreement.”

1. Decide if the statement is true (T), false (F), or the text does not say anything about it (D).

[check the answer]

1. Libby used drugs as bait for John. **T / F / D**

2. John was no novice in drug use. **T / F / D**

3. Libby first dabbled with drugs when she was in middle school. **T / F / D**

4. Libby reckoned that Leslie would be cross if she knew what John had been up to. **T / F / D**

5. Gerry thought little of the candidates he had interviewed for the job. **T / F / D**

6. Gerry's marketing was based on belittling the benefits of alternative medicine and smearing the competition. **T / F / D**

2. Using the word in blue, complete the second sentence retaining the meaning of the first sentence. Do not change the word given.

[check the answer]

1. Doctors say he'll walk with crutches if he's lucky.

SCENARIO

The ..... .

2. I was never surprised that she had a bit on the side with Terry.

TIME

At no ..... had a bit on the side with Terry.

3. At the time, I didn't think that novel was good.

MUCH

At the time, I didn't ..... .

4. How on earth did you get access to these documents?

   HOLD

   How on earth .....?

5. It's a very difficult task. Do you think you can manage it?

   PULL

   It's a very difficult task. Do you think .....?

6. I'm glad you spotted the tick under my armpit. Otherwise, I could have got sick.

   IF

   ..... , I ..... .

3. Choose the correct verb form.

[check the answer]

1. There has been a spate of muggings recently, so you should avoid **to walk / walking** the streets at night.
2. If only someone had taken the trouble **to inform / informing** me that the party had been cancelled!
3. The judge will defer **passing / to pass** sentence until all evidence has been properly analysed.
4. I was really surprised **to find / finding** that this frail old man was capable of doing the splits.

5. I don't expect you to fake **to like / liking** her. I just want you two to finish the project by next month.
6. We regret **to advise / advising** you that your proposal has been rejected by our committee.
7. It appears **to be working** / **working** alright. You have a go!
8. The MP denies **to be** / **being** a xenophobe.

4. Replace the word in blue with its synonym from the box. Change the form where necessary.

[check the answer]

squalid	**sizeable**	**fastidious**	**discrepancy**	**reverie**	**folks**

1. The inspector spotted some **inconsistency** in the invoices and the manager was summoned.

   .....

2. Over the years, John has amassed a **considerable** number of history books.

   .....

3. We will plan your wedding reception in **meticulous** detail. Call us now!

   .....

4. Having always lived in a **filthy** house, she was used to the sight of pests.

.....

5. Oh, I didn’t know you were here. I’m sorry to interrupt your **musings**.

.....

6. You’d better put a sock in it because if my **parents** find out, I’m history.

.....

CHAPTER 14

AS WITH THE PREVIOUS TRIALS, the final ones were being **carried out** in Newcastle at John Gunn's hospital, which specialised in such things. Susan King had made the journey north on the train the evening before. As she entered the hospital **grounds**, she called John.

"John, I'm just arriving. Will you be free later today?"

"Of course. You should have come to stay with us instead of staying in a hotel. We could have spent a bit more time together."

"You know how it is," Susan said, "there's a mountain of paperwork in preparation for the trials and I still had **a fair bit** to catch up on before this morning."

"Of course. Listen, you know how to find us, so why don't you **drop round** after you've finished and we can open a bottle to celebrate."

"Okay. I'll probably be there about 7 then."

As she was entering the trial **suite**, her phone rang. It was Gerry. "Just ringing to wish you luck, dear. Everything going okay **so far**?"

"I've just this minute arrived, Gerry. I can see the trialists waiting for me. They'll have hopefully had their **examination** by now, so there should just be the **form** filling to do and then we'll get started."

"Good. Did you speak to Jackson?"

"Yes. We had dinner last night. He's still a bit **jittery** about what happened to the two trialists, but I think I managed to **straighten his head out** a bit. And we're on the final **leg** now..."

"Okay, well, just **keep an eye on** him. Make sure he doesn't do anything silly if there are any problems."

“There won’t be.”

Gerry had just finished eating lunch with Dave Bowers when his phone vibrated in his pocket. “I’d better take this. It’s Susan. Might be something important,” he said, getting up and walking towards the door.

“Something’s happened, Gerry,” Susan said in an **agitated** voice, starting immediately to explain.

They had finished filling in the **questionnaires** with the trialists and administered the medicine and placebos. Under the **watchful** eye of a nurse, the **trialists** had gone for a **lie-down** with their books, iPods and iPads. They‘d all done it before, so had been expecting an uneventful few hours, interrupted, at worst, by periods of mild **queasiness**. An hour later, Susan had been about to leave to **attend to** a few things when she was called into the room where the trialists were. One of them, a young woman, had started to feel unwell. Such reactions to the trial drugs weren’t unheard of, but after what had previously happened, Dr Jackson had become **visibly** nervy. Susan had quickly calmed him down enough so that he could carry on with his work. Then, she checked whether the young woman had received the placebo or the trial drug, while Dr Jackson gave her a thorough examination and began to treat her. Her condition, however, hadn’t improved.

“Where is she now?” Gerry asked.

“A&E.”

“Couldn’t you have treated her there in the suite?” Gerry asked.

“Too risky,” **confessed** Susan. “She was **in a bad way**, even I could see that. They went about twenty minutes ago – her and Jackson.”

“Shouldn’t you be down there?”

“I decided I’d **be better off** here... in case anything else goes wrong. There’s only a junior doctor here now... Listen, John’s **on duty**, could you give him a call and see what’s going on?”

“Is it really so serious? Maybe I should wait a while, at least till I get back to the office.”

“I just don’t know. But we need to keep an eye on things. We’re so close to the end of the trials now. We don’t want people talking, do we? We can manage what’s going on down here in the trial suite. But in the A&E it’s a different story. It might **play havoc with** the results of the trial, if we don’t **handle** this well. Call him... please...”

“Okay. Leave it with me,” said Gerry. “Oh, and by the way, Susan... I presume this young woman had the trial drug...”

“Yes.”

“So can you remove the appropriate paperwork... as a temporary **measure**, while we **work out** what to do. It’ll probably need changing.”

“I’ve already done it. Oh, and there’s one other thing, Gerry. The young woman is Louise Proudlock, you know, the one who went to Libby’s school...”

“That’s all we need.”

Dave Bowers was drinking his coffee, and **fiddling with** his phone when Gerry King came back to the table. “I’m afraid I’ll have to get back to the office **sharpish**,” Gerry said.

“Everything okay?” asked Dave Bowers.

“Not really. There’s been a **cock-up** of sorts in Newcastle.”

As her condition hadn’t deteriorated any more, Louise Proudlock had been in a **cubicle** since being brought into A & E. By the time John Gunn came to see her, though, she was becoming visibly more confused, kept asking for water, and was having trouble with bright light. Dr Jackson **filled John in** on her condition and the chain of events.

“Okay,” John said, “I think we’d better get her through to resus[16].”

“I’m not going to die, am I?” Louise Proudlock asked in a weak, **slurred** voice, her words further **hampered** by her **swollen** lips.

“Just try and keep calm, Louise... deep breaths... we’ll get you examined and see what’s going on,” John said reassuringly.

As her **eyelids** **drooped**, John looked more closely at her face. Her skin was red and had **puffed up** quite severely, and she had several **fiery** **speckles** in the region of her **temples** and **earlobes**.

“Remind me... what was her temperature?” John said.

“39 and a half and going up. Then we gave her paracetamol to try and bring it down, and it seemed to steady things.”

“Well, it’s obviously a reaction to something. Now, you say she was in the trials for a new drug. Which one? Ceftoporzan?”

“That’s right,” said Dr Jackson. “The trials are at their final stage.”

“So I’ve heard. I suppose from what I can see here that she’s had the trial drug and not the placebo,” John said, **voicing** his suspicions.

“No.”

“It’s important we **get this right**. Are you sure?”

“As sure as I can be,” said Dr Jackson.

“That’s not good enough. I suggest you go and call someone and find out,” John said, unable to **comprehend** the note of **vagueness** that was **hovering** in Dr Jackson’s words. “And **be quick about it**.”

Dr Jackson went out into the corridor and called Susan.

“And?” she asked.

“She’s in a bad way.”

“Who’s treating her?”

“Dr Gunn.”

“Good, well, that’s one positive...”

“I told him she’d had the placebo. It just came out. He wanted to know if it was the trial drug that was causing the complications. I said I wasn’t 100% sure, so I’d call and find out.”

“Okay. Well, you’ve done the right thing. Just **stick to** that version of events **for the time being**, until we see how things **pan out**.”

Half an hour later, at the fourth **attempt**, Gerry King finally got through to John Gunn.

“You’re ringing about this young woman who’s been brought in, I suppose.”

“You suppose right. How is she?”

John explained what was going on.

“So you’re transferring her to **ICU**?”

“Yes, she’s stable at the moment, but it’s **touch and go**.”

“Meaning?”

“She might not survive. Her temperature had stabilised and begun dropping, but then it **went through the roof**. We had to intubate in the end. We’ve pumped her full of antibiotics and we’re just waiting now. But, Gerry, it didn’t help not knowing for sure what was at the root of her problems.”

“What do you mean? She’d had the placebo, Susan tells me.”

“Well, that’s what your doctor tells me too. But he seemed a bit **circumspect**, like he’s **holding back on** something. And, you know, people just don’t react like that to placebos.”

“You wouldn’t think so... I’d agree with you there,” said Gerry. “What are you suggesting, John?”

“Nothing... Listen, I’d better get back to work. I’ll keep Susan updated on what’s going on.”

An hour later, as Gerry King was **pacing** nervously up and down outside Castle and Bird's offices, smoking one of the Davidoff cigarettes he kept for **tense** moments, his phone rang.

"John, is everything okay? Tell me everything's okay..."

"I wish I could. But... well... the woman from your trial has just died. The antibiotics never really got a chance to work. It was too late."

"I'll call Susan," Gerry said after a few seconds' **hesitation** during which he tried to imagine the **ebbing away** of life that had just taken place at the hospital.

"She's here."

"And how is she?"

"She's obviously **upset**. But you know Susan... she's dealing with it."

"I've been calling her, but she hasn't been answering."

"Her phone's **off**. But I'll tell her I've spoken to you, and to call you once she gets a moment."

"Okay, thanks, John. Listen, just before you go, have you got any confirmation of what caused it? I mean, was it the Ceftoporzan?"

"There's no change on that. Dr Jackson is sticking to his story. And Susan only knows what he knows."

"So what happens now?"

"It's paperwork time. It needs doing as soon as possible. And there'll be the **autopsy**."

"Of course. Well, it's in **all our interests**, I suppose. We need to find out what happened. Listen, John... could you just do one thing for me... let me speak to Jackson and Susan first, before you fill in the report. It worries me that you think he might be hiding something."

"Well, I didn't exactly say that. I just said he seemed a bit circumspect. But I'll wait a bit, Gerry... although I can't leave it any later

than, say, **mid-afternoon**, so I'll expect to hear from you before then."

"How does John seem to you?" Gerry asked.

"He's **adamant** that the reaction strongly suggests Ceftoporzan," Susan replied.

"**That's to be expected**, I suppose. And Jackson... he's not going to **crack** and change his story?"

"**You can never tell**... but he's told the lie... it was his idea... so if he suddenly starts telling the truth, he'll be in a whole lot of trouble. I'll keep an eye on him, and be supportive. Have you had any thoughts on where we go from here?"

"We're okay for the moment. John can do his paperwork based on what Jackson's told him. I can see one problem... a pretty big one... there's going to be a **blood test** as part of the autopsy to **determine** what she was given. That'll show up the Ceftoporzan. The question is how to deal with that."

"And what have you come up with?"

"We have two choices. Do nothing. Or find a way for the blood not to **contain** Ceftoporzan."

"How do we do that?"

"Ensure that the **sample** is from one of the trialists who had the placebo..."

"And who has the same blood group."

"Of course. So, the first thing you need to do is fill Jackson in on what's going on. Then send him down to the trial suite to get a blood sample from someone."

"And if there's nobody with Louise's blood group?"

“We’ll **cross that bridge** if and **when we come to it**... but hopefully it **won’t come to that**.”

Half an hour later, Susan called Gerry back.

“We’re in luck,” she said, “there was someone with the same blood group, so we’ve got our sample, with the placebo in it. Once Jackson told me, I went and had a word with John and told him to fill the paperwork in. He’s just going to tell it how it is. All we have to do now is work out how to **switch** the blood samples. Have you had any ideas?”

“We’ll need John’s help.”

“I don’t think he’s going to agree to what we want him to do, is he?”

“That depends...”

“On what?”

“How persuasive we are. Listen, I’ve got a job for you, Susan. **Desperate times call for desperate measures**...,” said Gerry, beginning to explain what he had in mind.

“How’s the atmosphere there now?” Gerry asked when he’d finished outlining his idea to Susan. “Are you **bearing up** okay?”

“More or less, considering it’s the first time I’ve had to deal with anything this serious.”

“Well, keep going... And one final thing, Susan, I spoke to our communications director and she’s advised me on our priorities at this stage. There’s very little **likelihood** of the media **sniffing around** at this stage. So far, it’s a hospital death, but unless it gets out that it’s **linked** to Ceftoporzan, we’re okay for the moment. You’re down there, so try and keep Jackson calm, and **keep a lid on** things generally.”

“I understand.”

“The other thing she said to me was that she’ll find some evidence about the dangers of placebos...”

“If it exists.”

“It does. I had a quick look on the internet and after a few minutes I’d found things. She’ll do it in more detail and get to work on **moulding** it into some useful information which we can then make use of as and when we need it.”

“Sure.”

“I spoke to Louise’s dad... they were **en route**. Have they arrived?”

“Not yet. It can’t be long now though. What did he have to say?”

“They were in shock... obviously. But he’s the phlegmatic type... not particularly **prone to** **outbursts**.”

“And his wife?”

“The same, I hope.”

“Well, I’ll be waiting for them when they arrive. What are you going to do now?”

“Call Clive Selkirk.”

“What for?”

“He’s in the middle of a series of articles **laying the groundwork** for Ceftoporzan. I’ll have to get him to **put that on hold** for the moment until the storm clouds clear. The communications director suggested I should talk to him about maybe working something up on the dangers of placebos, as a **precautionary** measure. The other option is to say nothing – a **publicity blackout**. Anyway, I’ll see what he thinks. And let me know how you **get on with** John.”

“Okay. I’ll leave it till I see him tonight round at their house. I’ll have to work out a way of **getting Leslie out of the way** first...”

When John arrived home just after 6 p.m., Leslie had a bottle of wine on the table waiting for him. When she **made to** pour it, he **declined** her offer, and sat down opposite her. “Do you want to talk about it, John?”

“Yes and no,” he said, before **briefly** summarising how the day had ended.

“I’d really have preferred it if Gerry and Susan weren’t involved in this.”

“I can imagine.”

“But you know the worst thing... it’s the doubt... that’s really **got to me**,” John said.

“The doubt?” asked Leslie, inviting him to open up a little.

“About the decisions I took. Well, the decision really... that one **critical** decision... to assume she’d had the trial drug...” he said, voicing the thoughts that had been **gnawing away at him** all day.

Leslie was disappointed when he didn’t go on. “I believe in you,” she said, breaking the **brewing** silence, “you’re a good doctor, and you did the only thing you could have done.”

A minute later, the doorbell **chimed**. Leslie got up and let Susan in.

“I’m a bit earlier than expected. How’s John?” Susan asked in a hushed voice.

“Exhausted. I think now he’s home, he’s **mulling over** what happened, and it’s not helping him.”

“It’s understandable,” said Susan.

“And how are you bearing up?”

“To be honest, I haven’t had much time to think about what actually happened... I’ve been so busy dealing with the business side of things... report filling... talking to our lawyers and **insurers**...”

John appeared from the kitchen. “I’m glad that day’s over.”

“Me too,” Susan said.

The three of them went to the kitchen and Leslie poured the wine, before starting to prepare dinner. After a few minutes, she broke the

silence. “Listen, I’ll have to **pop out** for a few minutes to the shop for some cream for the sauce.”

“Do you want me to go?” John asked.

“No, you look **shattered**.”

When Leslie had gone, it was John who spoke first. “What’s going on, Susan? People don’t die from taking placebos.”

“It’s possible.”

“**Come on**. I filled the report in based on what I knew, but I’m not stupid.”

“Okay, listen, it wasn’t the placebo. I don’t know why Jackson told you it was.”

“Did you put him up to it?”

“No, I promise. The truth is... we need a bit of help, John.”

“Don’t even ask me. Whatever it is you have in mind, I can’t do it. I’m not getting mixed up in anything here.”

“You already are,” Susan said darkly.

“How do you mean? I filled in the report honestly. Whatever it looks like, my conscience is clear. It just **comes down to** what’s morally and ethically right, Susan. So don’t ask me to do anything, and I can’t say no.”

“Come on, John, don’t be so **high and mighty**. You’re not exactly **whiter than white**, are you?”

“I’ve always done my job with the highest ideals in mind,” John replied, struggling to see where Susan **was coming from**.

“I’m not talking about that.”

“Well, what are you talking about?”

“Look, I know all about what happened in France.”

“What do you mean?”

“You know very well,” Susan said, looking him in the eye.

“Ahhh... the cocaine... that’s hardly... it was just a bit of fun. And I don’t see what it’s **got to do with** this.”

“What cocaine?” Susan asked, surprise evident in her voice.

“Well, if you’re not talking about that, then what are you talking about?”

“You and Libby.”

“Me and Libby what?”

“Come on, we share things, she doesn’t keep things from me, especially not things like that. Stop pretending. You’re not going to tell me that was just a bit of fun, are you?”

“Listen, I’d prefer if that didn’t... you know... **get out**.”

“All I’m saying is we need a favour here. You might be able to help us. We hope you can. And, well, what Gerry said about the job...”

“Don’t bring that into it, Susan.”

Ten minutes later, Leslie returned from the shop. She saw that they were sitting in the same positions as when she had left, and noticed the same **stony** silence.

“Have you been keeping an eye on the food?” she asked.

“Yes,” said John **tersely**.

“You two okay?” Leslie asked.

“It’s been a hard day,” Susan said **evasively**, “we’ve just been **running over** events.”

As soon as dinner was over, John said that he was going for a lie-down. Upstairs, he **flopped onto** the bed, his mind racing, listening to every word the women were saying down below. After fifteen minutes, he got up, went to the medicine cabinet in the bathroom, and took one of the sleeping pills that Leslie had been prescribed for a **ruptured disc**.

Returning to the bedroom, he changed into his pyjamas and got under the **duvet**. One by one he felt his thoughts switch off until, as he was hanging onto the last threads of consciousness, an image of a young woman **adrift** in a swimming pool floated into his head. Libby, Li-ber-ty...

By the time Leslie came up to bed, John Gunn was lost to the world in a deep, empty sleep, in contrast to Susan, who was staring at the shadows cast by the traffic **headlights** passing by outside, wondering what the following day would bring.

1. Choose the best answer a, b or c.

[check the answer]

1. What side effects might the trialists have experienced during the trail?

- **a.** Nausea
- **b.** Blurred vision
- **c.** Dizziness

2. The reaction to the trial that the woman experienced...

- **a.** was unprecedented.
- **b.** had happened before, although on very few occassions.
- **c.** was expected by the doctors.

3. What symptoms did the trialist display?

- **a.** Reddish spots on the face, swollen eyelids and blurred vision.
- **b.** Reddish spots on the face and arms, swollen earlobes and dropped eyelids.

c. Reddish spots on the face, swollen lips and inarticulate speech.

4. “She’s stable at the moment, but it’s touch and go” means:

a. Her condition was stable but critical.

b. There was nothing the doctors could do to help her despite their efforts.

c. No one was allowed to touch her at the time to avoid the risk of infection.

5. What problem arose when Gerry and his co-workers wanted to conceal the truth?

a. There was a risk that the post mortem would show what the trialist had really been given.

b. There was a risk that the family of the deceased trialist would demand an autopsy.

c. There was a risk that John Gunn would crack and divulge the secret.

6. How did Gerry and his co-workers want to cover up the truth?

a. By browbeating one of the doctors into keeping a secret.

b. By tampering with the samples.

c. By injecting the placebo drug into the deceased trialist.

2. Match the phrases and expressions with their translations.

[check the answer]

1. to keep an eye on sth

a. skoczyć gwałtownie w górę

2. to play havoc with	**b.** psuć coś, powodować szkody
3. to go through the roof	**c.** nie martw się na zapas
4. cross that bridge when you come to it	**d.** położyć podwaliny
5. to lay the groundwork	**e.** bez wahania, natychmiast
6. at the drop of a hat	**f.** mieć na coś oko
7. it never rains but it pours	**g.** nieszczęścia chodzą parami

3. Fill in the gaps with suitable words from the box.

[check the answer]

adamant **tense** **hampered** **favour** **evasive** **curt** **en route** **circumspect** **agitated** **swollen**

1. We were on tenterhooks waiting for the exam results. Never before had I been so ..... .
2. Why be so ..... about your plans? Are you going to pop the question or not?
3. John, could you do me a ..... ? The bulb needs changing.
4. I've had enough of your ..... answers! You'd better stop beating about the bush and tell me the truth.

5. The patient is believed to have died ..... from the site of the accident to hospital.
6. Much as she wanted me to change my mind, I remained ..... .
7. Had the rescue operation not been ..... by the blizzard, the missing climbers may have been found.
8. I sprained my ankle yesterday. It‘s ..... and painful. I may not be able to play football for the next few weeks.
9. Mary sounded very ..... on the phone so I suggested we meet and discuss the problem.
10. I intended to make a joke of it, but my silly quip was met with his rather ..... comment.

4. Complete the sentences with correct prepositions.

[check the answer]

1. I was sitting in the garden with a mug of coffee, mulling ..... what my wife had said during our row.
2. I may be prone ..... mood swings and outbursts, but at least I don’t bottle thing up like Susan!
3. ‘I’ve called Suzy twice but she hasn’t answered.’ ‘She’s at a meeting so her phone may be ..... .'
4. Only when you’ve filled ..... the questionnaire can you start the training. Rules are rules, I’m afraid.
5. There’s very little likelihood ..... John getting promoted. He doesn’t have a lot going for him.

6. Don’t look at me like that! I assure you that I have nothing to do ..... it.
7. The police haven’t apprehended the prisoner yet so he is still ..... large.

CHAPTER 15

“WHO RECOMMENDED ME TO YOU?” Martin Merman asked the teenage girl sitting opposite him.

“Two people, actually. Someone I know from ballet... she was a bit **scoliotic**. And my dad’s boss.”

“Who’s that?”

“He’s the Deputy Minister of Health.”

“Michael Love?” asked Merman, mentally working out the connections.

“Yes.”

“Well, what we’re going to do today is a **focus session**. It’ll help you relax. Then, once you’re relaxed, we can get to work on trying to straighten out this problem with your ankle,” Merman said, **bending forward** to gently **take hold of** the girl’s foot.

An hour later, the girl walked out of Merman’s room.

“Would you like to **make** another **appointment**?” the receptionist asked.

“No,” came the decisive reply, as the girl quickly left.

A minute later, Merman came out of the room.

“Everything okay, Martin?” asked the receptionist.

“Yes. But that was a difficult session.”

“Yes, I noticed she was red-eyed. Had she been crying?”

“Frustration... she couldn’t... or wouldn’t do what she was asked. It’s a shame really.”

“She was booked for five sessions. But she didn’t look like she’d be coming back...”

“She won’t be... no.”

“Should I prepare her bill now then?”

“No... leave it. There’ll be **no charge**,” said Merman, going back into his room.

CHAPTER 16

WHEN JOHN ARRIVED AT the wine bar opposite Newcastle's Central Station, Gerry was waiting for him on a green velvet sofa by the window.

"I'm off back on the 8:43 train with Susan, so that gives us a couple of hours," Gerry said as John sat down. "I suggest a quick drink here and then going off to Luigi's for something to eat."

"Okay, that's fine by me," said John with an unmistakeably **brusque** edge to his words.

"Listen, what's happened, let's start **putting it behind** us. I don't want to **fall out over** it."

"It's **easier said than done**."

"Come on, John, neither of us has **covered ourselves in glory** here," Gerry said, taking a sip of his drink. "Are you angry with me?"

"With myself, for getting into this situation. I know you and Susan just did what you had to do. But, you know, I have a right to be a bit **hacked off** with you..."

"Well, I might say the same to you. About Libby..."

"Look, let's not get into this..." John said.

They both sat looking out of the window at the people heading into the station. It was Gerry who spoke first. "I expect you're wondering what we think of you after the **dalliance** with Libby?"

"Not really... but I suppose you're going to tell me."

"**For what it's worth**, we don't think much. She's not a kid anymore. We've always **preached** responsibility to her... for her actions. I believe

she knew what she was doing. And as for you and Leslie, that's your private matter."

"Well, that's very **magnanimous** of you, Gerry."

As they made their way down the bottle of wine, the atmosphere **thawed** a little.

"Did you know Libby knew that young woman?" Gerry asked, as they were walking to the restaurant.

"No."

"She went to school with her. She was in the year above. I mean, they weren't great friends or anything, but she knew her from the gym."

"I wonder why she was doing the trials then. You'd think that if she went to Libby's school, she'd have been **well** enough **off** to not have to do such things."

"She was on a Church of England **scholarship**. Her old man works for the Bishop of Lincoln. But anyway, students don't have the life we had when we were at medical school. They have to work so they have enough money to spend. Starbucks or Costa or in a shop. It's just **a fact of life**. Although I think when Libby comes up here in the autumn, we can avoid that."

Luigi, in his Neapolitan way, greeted the two men like old friends and found them a quiet table where they could talk. Once they had the **antipasti** on the table, the subject returned to Louise Proudlock, the young woman who'd died.

"I believe the initial investigation's **just about** finished," Gerry said, fearful of John's reaction to the subject.

"Yes. The **post mortem**'s done. The blood test results were due today, but there's been a **delay**."

"Why's that?" Gerry asked **anxiously**.

“Because they’re a bit **short-handed** at the lab. It’ll be Monday now. You know, I’d hoped they’d have it done before the weekend. I **could do without** the wait.”

“Me too.”

“Looks like you might **get away with** it then,” said John provocatively.

“Looks like it.”

“But it’s not right, is it, Gerry? I’m curious to know how you **square** what happened with your conscience.”

“Look at the **wider picture**. We don’t know what caused the reaction, do we? There could be any number of reasons. Plenty of other trialists have had the drug and haven’t reacted like that.”

“Meaning?”

“The drug might have contributed. But there are a lot of **unknowns**. We don’t know Louise’s medical history, do we? Not yet anyway.”

“It’ll all come out at the **inquest**.”

“Yes. To the benefit of all. But, you know, we’re at the end of a very long process here.”

“The trials, you mean?”

“Yes.”

“And that process is designed to protect people, surely?”

“I agree. But medicine doesn’t always work like that, does it,” Gerry said, cryptically. “Look at the pioneers and what they did. They had **setbacks** and they had to **bend the rules** sometimes.”

“What are you saying?”

“That we have to **press on**. We believe in this drug. And we’ve come too far...”

“You believe all this, don’t you, Gerry?”

“You have to.”

“And what happens when the regulators **get wind of** this? When the Department of Health finds out?”

“We deal with it.”

“How?”

“There are ways. As **gatekeepers** of the system, they understand certain things.”

Gerry **sensed** that whereas there might have been **hostility** in the beginning, there now seemed to be a certain curiosity about John’s words. It was possible, he allowed himself to think, that he was making progress. The waiter **cleared** the empty plates **away**, and ten minutes later brought the main courses.

“Have you had any more thoughts about the job offer?” Gerry asked.

“After what’s just happened?” John laughed.

“Especially after what’s just happened. You’ve seen how we work now. Why don’t you come and work for us?”

“You’re not going to give me the big sell, are you? Or start playing moral tennis with me...”

“No. I don’t think there’d be much point, would there? But **humour me** for a moment, John. Tell me... why do you work in a hospital, in A&E? I mean, there are plenty of other places a doctor with your skills might work. You’ve got all these targets, the pressure, people coming in on a Saturday night covered in blood and threatening the **staff** with knives... Good doctors are leaving what you’re doing **in droves**...”

“Haven’t I heard this before,” John said. “Anyway, I’m well aware of that. I thought I enjoyed what I was doing. It’s **hands-on**... **suits** my character. And I believe in being a doctor. I like to feel I’m **in the thick of things**. On a daily basis, you can see you’re **making a difference**... The negatives, you just have to **put up with**. And besides, I’m **settled**.”

“At work? Up here in Newcastle? With Leslie?”

“Let’s not bring that into it,” said John.

“You can’t hide from what’s happened, and what might happen. I’m speaking as a friend now, John.”

“**Even so**, now’s not the time.”

“Okay, understood, loud and clear.”

But it was too late. Gerry had rung a bell, a quiet bell, but a **persistent** bell, one that would not be silenced, that would keep on ringing.

When John returned home from Luigi’s, Leslie was **nowhere to be seen**. He called her name. “Up here,” she answered.

When John went upstairs, he found her lying in bed with her legs raised up on four pillows. Middle age seemed to have suddenly, cruelly, **descended** on her.

“Back?” John asked.

“Yes, it’s bad again. I was picking some scissors up one of the kids had dropped and it just went. I managed to drive home after an hour, but it was hell. Same place. I’ve had the doctor out and he said to rest up for a couple of days before getting **mobile** again. Listen, can you do me a favour? There’s some sleeping tablets in the medicine **cabinet**, can you bring me one?”

John went into the bathroom and took the bottle of sleeping pills out of the cabinet. Looking at it, he thought hard about what he was about to do. Then, he hurriedly took one, and **pocketed** the bottle. A minute later he reappeared in the bedroom.

“I’ve just remembered, Leslie... they were past their **expiry date**, so I took them to the **depository** at the hospital.”

“Oh no,” said Leslie. “I’m pretty desperate here. Is there any chance of getting hold of some from somewhere?”

For a moment, observing Leslie's suffering, John toyed with the idea of going to the bathroom and finding a **stray** pill at the back of the cabinet. "What about a massage... that might help," he suggested, knowing from experience what her answer would be.

"No... I think that might only make it worse."

"I'm tired. I think I'll get some sleep then... if you're sure there's nothing I can do for you," he said, getting undressed.

"Aren't you going to tell me what Gerry wanted?"

"Just a chat, nothing important really... Do you need anything?"

"Just turn the light out, will you," she said, hiding her frustration. "I'll see if I can get a bit of sleep."

John lay down in the dark. The last thing he was conscious of as he sank into sleep's waiting arms was Leslie **squirming** beside him.

1. Decide if the statement is true (T), false (F), or the text does not say anything about it (D).

[check the answer]

1. The more alcohol Gerry and John drank, the more shirty they became with each other. **T / F / D**

2. According to Gerry, student life was different in the past. **T / F / D**

3. The blood test results arrived late because there had been a mix-up at the laboratory. **T / F / D**

4. John admitted that he didn't want to leave the job because of the buzz he got from it. **T / F / D**

5. John had got used to the pressure of his job. **T / F / D**

6. John disposed of the sleeping pills to prevent Leslie from taking them. **T / F / D**

2. Match the words with their synonyms.

[check the answer]

1. setback	**a.** uneasy
2. persistent	**b.** investigation
3. anxious	**c.** fee, tax
4. short-handed	**d.** considerate
5. inquest	**e.** short-staffed
6. magnanimous	**f.** obstacle
7. charge	**g.** tenacious

3. Translate the parts of the sentences.

[check the answer]

1. Przypuszczam, że zastanawiasz się, co o tobie myślimy po twoim flircie z Libby?

I ..... ?

2. Kelner zabrał puste talerze i dziesięć minut później przyniósł dania główne.

..... .

3. Czy chciałaby się pani umówić na kolejną wizytę?

..... another ..... ?

4. Nie możesz uciec przed tym, co się wydarzyło lub może się wydarzyć.

..... , and what ..... .

5. W szafce są tabletki nasenne, możesz mi jedną przynieść?

There's some ..... ,

can ..... ?

6. Wyniki badania krwi miały być na dziś, ale jest opóźnienie.

.....due ..... ,
.....has ..... .

7. A co się stanie, kiedy osoby nadzorujące dowiedzą się o tym?

..... the regulators .....wind
..... ?

8. Cokolwiek masz na myśli, nie mogę tego zrobić.

Whatever it ..... , I can't do it.

4. Match the words with their definitions.

[check the answer]

1. setback	**a.** to melt
2. inquest	**b.** an investigation conducted after somebody’s death
3. hostility	**c.** angry, annoyed
4. squirm	**d.** a problem that delays something
5. stray	**e.** to move around by twisting; to wriggle
6. thaw	**f.** separate from other things in the same group, place, etc.
7. hacked off	**g.** rude or aggressive behaviour towards somebody
8. brusque	**h.** using very few words and being impolite; curt

CHAPTER 17

JOHN CAME OUT OF THE resuscitation room, looking somewhat **drowsy** to the nurse who was waiting for him. “You look as if you need a coffee. Late night?”

“Rather the opposite, I think I **overdid** it a bit with the sleep. Do you want something?”

“There’s someone to see you. A Mrs King.”

John looked over towards the reception desk and saw Susan. She gave him a little wave and he came over. “What’re you doing here? I thought you were back in London this week.”

“I wanted to be here when the blood test results came back.”

“Just in case...”

“Just in case nothing. It’s important. Let’s try and be **civil**, shall we.”

“Sorry, Susan, I’m a little **cranky** today.”

“I can see that.”

“I’m just off for a coffee. Do you want to come with me?”

As John led her into the doctor’s room, he caught Susan’s reflection in the mirror in front of him. In her smart, black business suit, high-heeled shoes and silk, Burberry scarf, she made him feel rather **ragged** by comparison.

“At the heart of all this is information management,” Susan said.

“What do you mean?”

“There are facts and supposition and **rumour**. And doubt. But what we’re basically dealing with are things that are of great possible value to patients in the future. These drugs don’t get so far in trials if they are

even **remotely** dangerous. They get this far if they are good. Does that make sense?"

"You sound just like Gerry."

"We **sing from the same hymn sheet**," said Susan as she took her coffee from John.

The mid-morning rush that sometimes happened **failed to materialise** that day. John Gunn, distracted as he was, was thankful. He had two cases to deal with. A car mechanic had got his finger **trapped** between two parts of the engine block he was working on and had been brought in with his hand **wrapped** in a bloody towel. His condition was **exacerbated** by his **deep-seated** fear of hospitals. When they'd unwrapped the **makeshift** bandage and cleaned up the finger, it had only required a few **stitches**. The second case was an elderly woman who had fallen at the **care home** where she lived. John had examined her and the x-ray showed she had a **hairline fracture** to her hip. It didn't look too serious, and he passed her on to an orthopaedist.

In an **idle** moment, he thought about what Gerry had asked him a couple of days before. Why was he doing this? Was it what he really wanted in life? Perhaps it had become habitual, and habits **had a** terrible **way of** justifying themselves, and **sinking their teeth into** you.

Just after 11, he saw Susan come into the reception area, accompanied by a familiar face. "You know Doctor Jackson," she said.

"Yes, we've met," John said **curtly**.

"We've got the results back. It was as we thought, the placebo," Susan announced, loud enough that people turned their heads to look at her. John said nothing.

"Is there somewhere we can talk?" Susan asked.

"The doctor's room will be empty."

“Do you think you could give us a few minutes, Simon?” Susan asked, and followed John into the room, where they both remained standing.

“I won’t **beat about the bush**. I’ve spoken to Gerry already. These results give us the green light and we can press on now. You know, John, we really want you to come and work for us. And, thinking about it, we can see that there’s an opportunity here. We’d like you to be involved with Ceftoporzan, and what’s happened gives us the chance to get you more involved.”

John raised his eyebrows and looked at Susan. “You’re serious, aren’t you?”

“Yes,” she said, handing him a folder. “You’ll find in there some information about Ceftoporzan. Just have a look at it. I realise now might not be the best moment. But maybe over the next few days. Do you think you can do that?”

“Well... I can’t make any promises. Anyway, I’d better get back to work, Susan.”

John was half way out of the door. “Has Libby been in touch yet?” asked Susan, **stopping** John **dead in his tracks**.

“Libby?”

“Yes, **she’s off** to visit a friend in Scotland for a couple of weeks’ holiday, now that school’s finished. She said she might drop in and see you and Leslie on the way.”

“I’m not sure that’s such a good idea, are you?”

“What happened in France... well... I think it might be her way of normalising things again.”

“I don’t know, Susan.”

“She’s going to call you anyway, so you can sort it out between the pair of you.”

Kim and John walked over the road to the Coach and Horses after work. Kim bought the first **round** and wandered over to the table in the corner, where John was gazing off into space. "**Penny for your thoughts**," she said, putting the drinks down on the table.

"I'm just mulling over the blood test results," John said, wondering if he should **come clean**, and deciding against it.

"Any doctor would have reacted the way you did, John. It's starting to show on your face, the stress of it all."

"I've been having trouble sleeping."

"I've noticed. You've been like the **living dead** some mornings **of late**. Is it because of what happened?"

"Sort of. I mean that was the catalyst. But I've been thinking about a lot..."

"Such as?"

"I've been **headhunted**. By Castle and Bird."

"You're joking..."

"I'm not. The boss is an old friend from medical school. Susan's his wife. They want me to get involved in the development of Ceftoporzan... with the post-trials phase of getting it onto the market."

"Did you get the offer before Louise Proudlock's death?"

"The **initial** offer, yes. I mean we never talked about any details or anything," John said, noticing Kim's empty glass. "Another one?"

"Yes. I'll tell you what, make it a **pint** this time."

John Gunn went to the toilets on his way to the bar. As he stood washing his hands, he looked at his face in the mirror. Did he look tired? He was **intently** staring into his own eyes when the door opened and a father came in with his little boy. The boy looked up at him, unable to take his eyes away. It was enough to **hasten** John's departure from the toilets, but on his way out, he overheard the boy observing to his father

that the man had a strange face. After standing at the bar for a couple of minutes, he returned with the drinks. Kim had had plenty of time to think through what he had just told her.

"**Cheers**, John," she said, as he handed her drink. "Wasn't it supposed to be a pint?"

"I'm sorry. Do you want me to get it **topped up**?"

"I'll manage," she said.

"I've had to take sleeping pills to get to sleep the last few nights, it's been that bad," John confessed.

"That's not unusual, is it? But even before you told me that, it was obvious, it's really got to you. What does Leslie say about it?"

"I haven't talked to her much about it, to be honest. **Ordinarily**, we'd talk things over in bed at night. But I've just been falling asleep... into that deep, empty, starless, Temazepam[17] sleep."

"Does she know you're taking sleeping tablets?"

"No. She'd only worry. Anyway, once the inquest is out of the way, things should clear up a bit. I'm sure."

"You're not surely contemplating taking the sleeping tablets till then?"

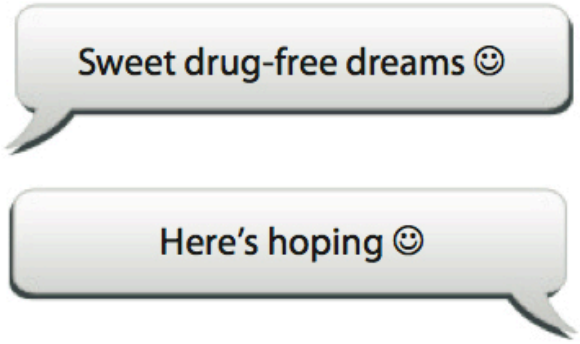
"No... of course not."

"Good," said Kim, **firmly**. "They're not a solution."

"On the other hand, I won't allow myself to turn into a sleepless **wreck**," John observed, with a dry smile.

It was 10:30 by the time he arrived home, and Leslie was already upstairs asleep. John went into the kitchen and made himself a bacon sandwich, before turning Radio 4 on to catch the end of the news. Once he'd finished, he instinctively went to the bathroom medicine cabinet, before remembering that his latest **hiding place** for the sleeping tablets was his coat pocket. His conversation with Kim came drifting back to

him and he **resolved** to try going without, preparing for an uncomfortable night of **tossing and turning**. Shortly after 11, he received an SMS from Kim.



Two minutes later another SMS arrived. He picked up the phone. It was from Libby.

Leslie **stirred** in her sleep next to him. "You're popular," she said groggily, before turning over, as the image of a young woman adrift in a swimming pool floated into John's head. He couldn't **keep it at bay**.

CHAPTER 18

“CLIVE SELKIRK AGAIN,” the receptionist said when Gerry answered the phone.

“Okay, put him through.”

Without much **ado**, Clive Selkirk started to explain the placebo article, versions of which he’d placed in two separate magazines. After a couple of minutes, Gerry interrupted him. “I’m well aware of what was in the articles. What’s going on, Clive?”

“Well, what it is is I’ve just had a call from Mike Freeman at Pharmaceutical Solutions.”

“Right... our placebo producer. What did he want?”

“He’s concerned about what’s been happening to their **share price**. So he did a bit of investigation... was sure it must be connected to Louise Proudlock’s death in some way. Didn’t take him long to **come across** my articles. Have you been keeping an eye on their market value?”

“I’ve got more important things to do. How bad is it?”

“It’s fallen 20% and is still falling. It’s since the post mortem. Seems **word has got out**.”

“Because of your articles?”

“They’ve contributed. But that was the point, wasn’t it, to begin shifting the focus a bit. I talked about the possibility of this happening with your communications director.”

“Well, I suppose it was **inevitable**.”

“We decided that I shouldn’t mention any names, but it seems people have been **putting two and two together**.”

“People?”

“**Shareholders** and some people in the media.”

“So what was he saying to you then?”

“That he wasn’t impressed by what I’d done. He’s going to call you. He knows I’m working **on your behalf**.”

“I see. Well, I don’t really want to be making any enemies here.”

“It’s a shame that you can’t just **pay him off** the way you do other people,” Clive laughed.

“I know,” Gerry said, “but this needs sorting out...”

“Well, I just thought I’d better warn you, try and give you time to think of something to say to him.”

An hour after Gerry talked to Clive Selkirk, Mike Freeman called him.

“I suppose you know what this is about. Has Selkirk called you?”

“Just after he spoke to you.”

“What were you thinking of, Gerry?”

“Isn’t that obvious? We’re at a very delicate stage with Ceftoporzan. We need to do everything possible to maintain momentum. There’s **a lot at stake**.”

“I’m aware of that. But pointing the finger of suspicion our way?”

“But it was the placebo at fault.”

“That’s the official line, yes. But...”

“Yes? What are you saying, Mike?”

“I’m saying it doesn’t need pointing out in the media. I thought we had an understanding... a healthy working relationship...”

“Listen, Mike, I think we need to work together on this,” Gerry said in a **conciliatory** tone. “I’d suggest we need a meeting to try and come up with a way forward that would be beneficial **for all concerned**.”

“I agree. It’s just a pity you didn’t speak to me earlier, that’s all, before Selkirk wrote his article.”

Gerry was satisfied that he’d **placated** Mike Freeman for the moment, but he knew it wouldn’t last if he couldn’t come up with some options for the following morning, when he’d arranged to visit Pharmaceutical Solutions.

1. Choose the best answer a or b.

[check the answer]

1. When he left the resuscitation room, John looked ..... .

a. sluggish

b. perturbed

2. When John compared his and Susan’s attire, he ..... .

a. was proud of being well-groomed

b. felt he was completely eclipsed by her

3. To ‘sing from the same hymn sheet’ means ..... .

a. to see eye to eye

b. to be at odds

4. The man who had trapped his finger ..... .

a. was treated and discharged the same day

b. had to stay in for observation

5. The blood test results ..... .

a. got in the way of the trial

b. allowed Gerry and his team to forge ahead

6. John confessed to Kim that ..... .

a. he had been sleeping poorly of late

b. he fell asleep easily, aided by pills

7. The message from Libby reminded John of ..... .

a. her nude figure lying on the bed

b. his dalliance with her

2. Cross out the odd word.

[check the answer]

1. inevitable / elusive / ineluctable / inexorable

2. torpid / drowsy / dormant / sluggish

3. chirp / wriggle / squirm / writhe

4. civil / courteous / cordial / callous

5. grumpy / cantankerous / amicable / cranky

6. mingle / exacerbate / aggravate / worsen

7. ingrained / vexed / deep-rooted / deep-seated

3. In some of the sentences there's an extra word that shouldn't be there. Cross it out.

[check the answer]

1. By May, John will have been working for this company for twenty five years.

2. It's about high time you stopped spoon-feeding your pupils! They have to think for themselves.

3. Suzy was operated on for varicose veins and she's feeling much better now.
4. In three weeks' of time we'll be lying on the beach and sipping cool drinks. I can't wait!
5. If had it not been for Muriel's help, I would never have wormed my way through the motley crowd of tourists.
6. Imagine a scruffy, drunk beggar emerged himself from the bushes, what would you do?

4. Choose the correct answer.

[check the answer]

1. ..... has it that she gravitated towards witchcraft when she stayed at her aunt's house last summer.

   a. Rumour
   c. Legend
   b. Words
   d. Tradition

2. The yarn he told us wasn't even ..... realistic. It was larger than life, to say the least!

   a. slight
   c. remotely
   b. hardly
   d. such

3. Stop beating about the ..... , will you? If you own up to it now, there'll be no repercussions.

   a. dog
   c. tree
   b. bush
   d. shrub

4. It’s high time you came ..... about it. If you make a clean breast of it, you’ll feel better.

a. clean
c. clear
b. straight
d. loud

5. No sooner did Jane see the grass snake slithering towards her than she stopped ..... in her tracks.

a. long
c. once
b. short
d. dead

6. There’s hardly any wine left in your glass. Do you fancy a top-....?

a. up
c. out
b. in
d. over

CHAPTER 19

WHEN THE DEPUTY MINISTER'S assistant arrived this time for the breakfast meeting, there were a few more people sitting in the restaurant. "Over here, Robert," Susan said in a raised voice, as he stood looking around.

"Late again, I'm afraid," he said.

"Don't worry, nothing's **spoiling**."

"Trials are finished then," Robert said as he sat down. "Are you **pleased** with the **outcome**?"

"Yes, of course. We're ready for the next stage now and getting full acceptance."

For 20 minutes, they discussed the possibilities for the drug and how it would **fit into** the market. But Susan had the feeling all the time that something was being left unsaid.

"You've heard the rumours?" Robert finally asked.

"About?"

"Ceftoporzan. I assume you know what I'm referring to..."

"Of course. It's **annoying**."

"I have to ask this, you understand... is there any truth in them?"

"No. It's a case of putting two and two together and coming up with five, if you see what I mean. Plus a bit of black PR mixed in with it."

"That's what I thought," Robert said as he stood up. "I wanted to raise that before I went."

"I understand," said Susan, as Robert sat back down. "Was there something else?" she asked in a worried tone.

“It’s a private matter really. Do you know Martin Merman?”

“I do, he does some work for us and with us.”

“And? What do you think of him?”

“He’s good at what he does. Although I have to say he’s **not my cup of tea.** What’s this about?”

“Probably nothing really,” Robert said, standing up again.

“There’s something for your boss,” said Susan, handing him a bag.

“Right...”

The first thing Robert did when he had turned the corner outside was to check the **clasp** of the bag. This time it was **securely** locked.

CHAPTER 20

LESLIE WAS JUST **putting the finishing touches** to the dinner in the kitchen. “You go and talk to Libby a bit if you like. I can manage here,” she said to John, who was **loitering** in an annoying way.

“I’ll open a bottle of wine,” he said, taking a pinot grigio from the fridge. He poured three glasses, left one for Leslie and took two through to the sitting room.

“There you go,” he said, handing a glass to Libby.

“How are we going to **play** this?” Libby asked in the quietest of whispers.

“Normally,” John said even more quietly. “As if nothing ever happened.”

“Have you got any photos from France?” she asked in her normal voice, after taking a sip of her wine.

“Let’s have a look after dinner, shall we? Leslie’s got them on a **memory stick** somewhere. The food should be ready in about 20 minutes. In the meantime, tell me about your trip to Scotland. Where is it you’re going... Dundee?”

“No,” said Libby with a big **hoot** of laughter. “Whatever gave you that idea?”

“Oh, I don’t know, I thought Susan mentioned something.”

“I’m actually going to visit a school friend whose family own a castle on the west coast near Arran.”

By the time Leslie came in carrying a tray of **starters**, Libby was in full flow, talking about a motorcycle trip they were planning through the Highlands. Both John and Leslie listened with fascination, all the way

through dinner. When the pots were safely in the dishwasher and they had some green tea to drink, Leslie **fetched** her laptop and they spent half an hour looking through the photos of the France trip. Shortly after the last one, Leslie gave a big yawn, excused herself and went off to bed.

“Does she know anything?” Libby asked in a hushed voice.

“Not as far as I know.”

“Good... I was worried.”

“Well, don’t be.”

“We might as well finish the rest of that wine, John,” Libby suggested, waving the bottle at him. “I might go outside for a smoke first. Will you accompany me?”

“I don’t smoke, Libby...”

“You might like to have a try of this,” she said, opening a silver cigarette case with her initials engraved on it. Inside, there were four hand-rolled cigarettes. Here we go again, John thought to himself.

Outside, the night was clear and warm, and through the **glowing** orange **arc** cast by the city lights, the brightest stars were visible. They sat on the patio and Libby handed the joint to Gunn.

“**Spark** it **up**,” she said.

When they’d smoked it, John attempted to stand up. “Where’re you going?” Libby asked. “Not to bed, I hope.”

“No, no... for the wine.”

“You’d better leave that to me, cowboy, you look a bit **wobbly** there.”

“All quiet upstairs,” Libby said when she returned.

“Yes, Leslie’**s** soon **off to sleep** after a few drinks.”

Libby poured them both a glass of wine. “I often wish I was your age, John,” she said. “All your worries behind you.”

John looked at her with surprise. “Surely not,” he said, laughing quietly. “It’s a **cursed**, **benighted** age, **sandwiched** between youth and death.”

“No, I’m serious. You’ve got it all, haven’t you? Nice house. Lovely wife. Your careers all sorted.”

“They’re all chains, tying you down, believe me. This is it. I’ve got all this... and this is all I’ve got. What next... the last syllable of recorded time?”

“Would that be the joint talking?”

“No, it’s John Gunn, aged 43, talking, as he orbits the earth, looking down on his life,” he said, unable to restrain himself from giggling. Libby immediately found herself infected by his **mirthful** outburst, and they sat looking at each other, laughing.

“Shall we?” asked Libby eventually, taking out another joint.

“Go on then...”

When they had finished, Libby sat gazing up at the night sky, while John sat and looked at her.

“You’re so young, Libby,” he said after a while. “Don’t waste it... don’t wish it away... it’ll be gone soon enough.”

“That’s true,” Libby replied **hazily**. “But what does it mean to be young...”

“To be **desired**,” John replied thoughtfully, “look at how smooth the skin on your neck is. That’s the essence of youth, isn’t it?”

“Give a man a mask and he will show you his true face,” Libby said enigmatically, pouring the remaining wine into the two glasses.

“What on earth **are** you **going on about**?”

“Well, if you’re going to quote Macbeth to me, I’ll give you Wilde,” she giggled. “Anyway, changing the subject... what would make you accept my father’s offer?”

“It’s a good question. But not one I feel able to answer at this precise moment.”

“Now, come on. What could **tempt** you? **Novelty**? Curiosity? A big challenge?”

“I’d want to feel wanted.”

“You are. You can’t believe how much they want you there.”

“Mind, having said that, a bloody big pay rise, a new Audi or BMW, and **perks galore** wouldn’t do any harm.”

“I think that can be easily arranged.”

“But seriously, Libby, I can’t just drop everything and disappear off to London, can I?”

“Can’t you?”

John was sitting in the kitchen with a **steaming** mug of tea in front of him, **leafing through** a copy of Men’s Health, when Libby came **ambling** down the stairs. “Leslie still asleep?” she asked.

“Yes. I told her she could **have a lie-in**.”

“Any coffee for me?”

“Do you want to go out for breakfast? There’s a good Portuguese place just down the street,” John said, looking up from his magazine for the first time, surprised to see that Libby was only wearing a **thigh-skimming**, **sleeveless** black t-shirt with a skull on the front.

“You’re not leaving much to the imagination there,” he said.

“Yes... quite right,” she said smiling coquettishly. “I’ll just go and throw on a few clothes and then we can go, okay?”

“Sure,” said John, hoping that Leslie was indeed still asleep.

15 minutes later, they were entering the Portuguese café. “This place looks fun,” said Libby, **glancing around** at the Lisbon style ceramics,

and the tempting **array** of food laid out before them. They ordered a selection of sweet and **savoury** products and two coffees, and went and sat at a table beside the window.

"Did you enjoy yourself last night?" Libby asked. "You were saying some funny things."

"Don't remind me," John laughed. "Listen, you won't tell anyone about the **weed**, will you?"

"Of course not. Discreet is my **middle name**. But we'll have to do it again sometime..."

"I don't know about that," John said, **contritely**.

When they got back home, Libby went straight upstairs to get her bag, and John went into the kitchen, where Leslie was sitting reading a book. "Have you been out for breakfast?"

"Yes. I thought I'd take Libby to Jorge's. Show her what Newcastle's got to offer."

Libby came down the stairs and into the kitchen. "I'd better dash. The train's in 25 minutes. Thanks for letting me stay, Leslie."

"It's been a pleasure, dear. I only wish I could have stayed awake a bit longer last night. Judging by the laughter I could hear from the garden, it sounded like the pair of you were enjoying yourself."

1. Match the parts to create full sentences.

[check the answer]

1. The first thing he did when he had turned	**a.** for the drug and how it would fit into the market.

2. She was on her way to visit a friend	**b.** touches to the dinner.
3. When they had finished, they sat gazing up	**c.** through a copy of Men's Health.
4. He was sitting over a mug of tea, leafing	**d.** at the sky and pondering.
5. For 20 minutes, they discussed the possibilities	**e.** the corner outside was to check the clasp of the bag.
6. She was about to put the finishing	**f.** whose family own a property on the west coast.
7. I only wish I could have	**g.** stayed up a little longer last night.

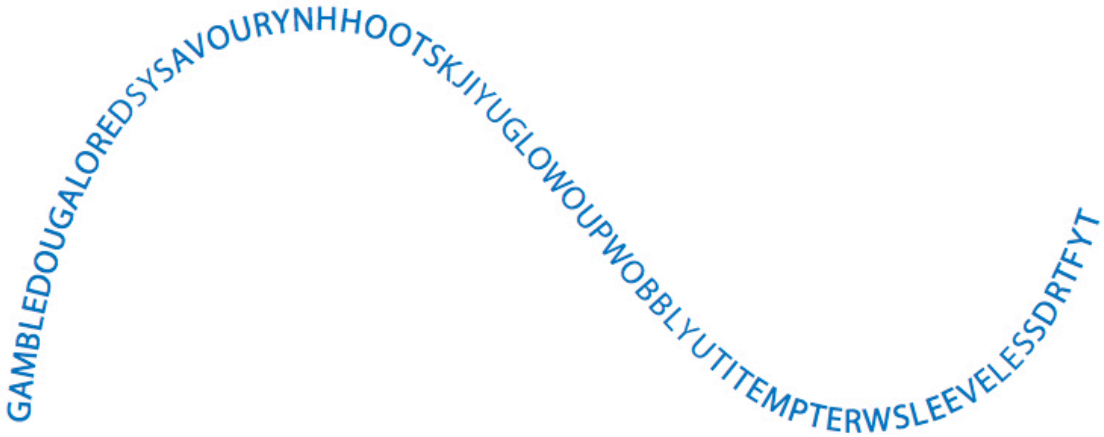
2. Fill in the table.

[check the answer]

noun	verb	adjective
		annoying
	to enable	
desire		
		acquainted
	to tempt	
allegation		
		amusing

3. Find six words and use them in the correct form to complete the sentences.

[check the answer]



1. ..... tops and low necklines are a definite no-no in our company, I'm afraid.

2. Don't leave your camera in the car! You don't want to ..... thieves, do you?

3. Jane says she's not going to pick any apples from the tree because the ladder feels a bit ..... .

4. As soon as the police came into view, ... of laughter could be heard from the jeering crowd.

5. You can tell Liz's new diet has done her the world of good – her cheeks have got their healthy ..... back and her hair looks strong and shiny.

6. If you work with your voice on a daily basis, you ought to steer clear of ..... foods and alcohol.

7. After dinner, we ..... around the old harbour watching the fishermen sort out their boats for the night.
8. It was my best birthday ever! I got presents ..... .

4. Complete the sentences with the missing word – the number of letters is given.

[check the answer]

1. Terry was as **p**_ _ _ _ _ _ as Punch when I told him he had been shortlisted for the job.
2. Children, please stop **l**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ around me or I'll never finish baking these muffins.
3. The article is almost ready. I just have to put the finishing **t**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ to it and have it proofread.
4. **F**_ _ _ _ me my jumper, will you, dear? It's in the wardrobe on the top shelf.
5. We'd better look for a sturdier table. This one has a **w**_ _ _ _ _ leg.
6. That's a very **t**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ offer, but I've got a lot on my plate at the moment, I'm afraid.
7. Nowadays, customers have a staggering **a**_ _ _ _ of products to choose from and are often unable to decide what to buy.

CHAPTER 21

IT WAS FULL STEAM ahead with the Ceftoporzan project. Gerry was deep in concentration when the phone rang. “Dr Jackson to see you,” the receptionist said.

“Okay, send him in,” Gerry replied, wondering what he wanted.

“Come in,” he said, as Dr Jackson appeared nervously in the door. “What can I do for you?”

“I just thought I’d better drop in and let you know I’ve **handed in my notice**. I’ve had a week off work just to try and clear my head a bit. What happened with Louise Proudlock... well, you know...”

“You’re not being a bit **hasty**?”

“I’ve thought long and hard about it.”

“Give me a couple of minutes, will you,” said Gerry, standing up and leaving the room.

Outside, he called Susan.

“I’ve got Simon Jackson in my office, telling me he’s quit his job. Can you **shed any light on** it?”

“I heard about it, yes. Somebody called me from HR this morning.”

“We don’t want him leaving, do we? He knows a bit too much. If he’s still employed, we can keep an eye on him... support him.”

“Those were my thoughts. I did have an idea, Gerry... Give him **leave** until the inquest and then we can get him in to discuss his future.”

“Do you think he would **go for it**?” Gerry asked.

“I don’t see why not. And it buys us some time.”

Gerry returned to his room and put the suggestion to Dr Jackson.

“We’ll be in touch before then, of course... make the necessary preparations. And you’ll be on full pay, of course. I don’t see any reason why you should suffer financially.”

“Let me have a think about it. Can we do it that I call you tomorrow?”

“Of course.”

When Dr Jackson had left, Gerry called Susan.

“I think he’s going to go for it. He’s going to call me tomorrow with his decision, but he seemed fairly positive.”

“Good. Listen, I had an interesting conversation with Libby earlier on. Seems she enjoyed herself in Newcastle.”

“How was John?”

“**Perky** was the word she used. Amongst other things, she said he seemed to be softening to the idea of coming to work here.”

“Interesting...”

“We had a bit of a gossip too. She claims he’s **disillusioned** generally.”

“Because of what happened to Louise Proudlock?”

“More to do with Leslie... seems he might be getting **itchy feet**.”

The next day, Gerry was sitting in his office working through some numbers when Simon Jackson called. As soon as they’d finished, he rang Susan.

“Good news with Jackson. He’s agreed to our proposition. And because of the inquest, we have a reason for keeping in touch with him.”

“Have we got a date for the inquest yet?”

“Yes, came through this morning. It’s less than two months away.”

“How are you doing with Pharmaceutical Solutions?”

“It needs sorting out, but I’ve got a few ideas. I’ve had a couple of meetings with them already, but we still can’t find something workable

that satisfies them. And I think we have an obligation to help them in some way. I think Simon Jackson could be useful."

"How?"

"Well, what if he'd made a mistake that day..."

"But he didn't."

"I know. But we've got the inquest ahead, and he has the chance to clarify certain things. And... well, you know, there is a chance..."

"It all sounds too complicated to me. I'll let you get on with it."

"We've got the date for the inquest," Gerry said.

"I received it this morning," said John. "Two months... it's quicker than I thought it would be."

"It's good for everyone involved. It's looking as if it will be fairly **straightforward**. I spoke to Louise's father, just to see how he was bearing up. He said they just wanted **closure** on things."

"You're not expecting any surprises then?" John asked.

"Not really. Just have to **prep** Jackson, make sure he doesn't get too... I'll arrange a few sessions with Merman for him. That ought to sort things out. Anyway, John, what I was really ringing you about was that I have something that might interest you."

"What's that?"

"We're **hosting** a conference next month and I have a couple of spaces for you and Leslie to go along if you want. Have a bit of a break and get to know a few people."

"I can't imagine it would be of much interest to me if it's a pharma **bash**."

"Ah, well, if you're still thinking about our offer... and I hope you are... then it will be of interest."

“I don’t know. What is it? Some 5-day **jolly** for doctors to the Dominican Republic to sit round the pool sipping margheritas?”

“**Credit us with** a bit more class than that, John. It’s three days in Venice. And there’s a **decent** conference **lined up**. With some very good speakers. We’ve got someone speaking on the trials process. I’ll pencil you in. It’ll do you good before the inquest.”

“Okay... I’ll think about it. But I doubt Leslie will be coming with me.”

“Okay. Well, I’ll leave it open for the moment. If you manage to convince her, let me know. Even if she can’t go, we’ll be able to find someone else to go **at short notice**. People are ringing up to try and get places... practically begging us...”

The receptionist brought Mike Freeman through into Gerry’s office. Gerry tried to **gauge** his mood as he sat down. “I think things are swinging our way a bit, Mike.”

“How do you mean?”

“Well, you know I mentioned this plan with Simon Jackson.”

“It seemed a bit of a **long shot**.”

“Not any more. I had a good long chat to him and he told me that his big problem with what happened was that he finds it hard to keep a distance from patients.”

“Meaning Louise Proudlock?”

“He didn’t say that, but... Anyway, what’s important is that I mentioned that we could give him a new role... here, on the product side. He said he’d think about it. It would mean a lot more money for him, a better package all round, although I didn’t mention that to him.”

“Quite. You don’t want him thinking you’re trying to buy him off. When’s he going to get back to you?”

“He’s coming in tomorrow to discuss it a bit more. His thoughts are still on the inquest and the GMC **hearing** to follow, but he did admit he would have to start thinking about what he was going to do next. I told him that when he comes in, I want to go over a few things with him about the trials and the inquest, and that I had someone who could help him prepare.”

“Who’s that?”

“Someone we use for coaching and mentoring. Martin Merman. The plan is to organise Jackson a few sessions with him and get to work on him.”

“And where do I come into this?”

“I’ll explain to you the plan. But what I really need from you now is to work out exactly how we’re going to approach this. We’re going to have to put together a compensation package for Jackson.”

CHAPTER 22

GERRY TURNED THE BMW OFF the M25[18] and drove through the narrow, leafy **lanes** of an exclusive corner of Surrey, populated by wealthy foreign **tax exiles**, football players and show business types. Soon, the **satnav** announced that they were at their destination. Tweedledum and Tweedledee[19] stood by the gates checking invitations. Once Susan had shown theirs, they were directed along a **gravel drive** to the guest car park.

"Should we have come in fancy dress?" Susan asked, before her thoughts were distracted by the sight of the house. "Quite something. Not what I was expecting. I thought it would be a Georgian red-brick **affair** or Palladian in this part of Surrey. But not 30s modernism."

"It's **mock**-modernism. It was only built two years ago," said Libby. "The first time I came here there was just a rather **ramshackle**, five-bedroomed **mansion** like the others along the road. Although they're disappearing fast too and being replaced by more **imposing piles**."

"There's no crisis for some folk," said Susan King.

"Including us, mum," Libby observed, **tongue-in-cheek**. "A lot of the locals are from abroad Mac tells me. He says there's never any decent whisky in the local pub because the Russians and Chinese come in and drink it all."

"England's beautiful in the summer..." Gerry said dreamily, **surveying** the surroundings as they joined the other guests **milling around** outside the house. "When you're somewhere like this, it reminds you of all that's good about this country."

A waiter dressed as The Mad Hatter[20] approached bearing a drink-**laden** silver tray and they each **helped themselves to** a gin and tonic. The imposing figure of their host approached.

“Have you ever actually met Mac’s father?” Libby asked **by way of** introduction.

“Once, a while ago, at a conference,” Gerry said. “I think it was before you became a minister.”

“That’s right. It was in Birmingham if I remember well.”

“That’s right,” Gerry said. “You’ve got a good memory.”

“I need it in my job.”

“You must be looking forward to the summer break,” Gerry said.

“I am, although I’ll be taking the work with me,” said the Minister. “There’s no hiding place.”

“There’s always a job waiting for you with us if you get sick of it,” Gerry smiled.

“I’ll **bear** it **in mind**,” said the Minister. “Now, remember you’re not here on business, and enjoy yourselves.”

As the afternoon **wore on**, Gerry and Susan **retired** to a shadier part of the garden to escape the heat of the sun. **At one point**, the Minister came over.

“Well,” he said, “are you enjoying the party?”

“I can’t think of a better way to spend a summer afternoon,” said Susan, who by then was onto her fifth gin and tonic.

Talk soon turned to business. “I hear the Ceftoporzan project is at the end of the trials,” said the Minister. “It’s a big deal for the company, I suppose.”

“Yes,” Gerry said **guardedly**, “we’ve invested a lot.”

“I heard about what happened with Louise. **Dreadful** shame. My people tell me she had some **underlying** health **issues** that **contributed** to her death.”

“You’re well informed,” Gerry said, thinking back to the medical notes Clive Selkirk had got hold of for him.

“It’s my job. Are you planning to make use of the information?”

“We have a strategy all worked out, yes. Everything will be cleared up at the inquest.”

“I’m sure it will,” said the Minister. “I just wanted to assure you that I won’t be influenced by any speculation. You know we have some interest in your product. Susan’s done a good job with my Deputy’s assistant...”

“I hope so,” said Susan. “We’ve developed a good understanding of where things are going.”

“Just a word of warning though... I suggest you deal directly with my Deputy from now on. His assistant has been making some unwanted noises.”

“Concerning?” Susan asked.

“Money,” the Minister said **bluntly**. “I just thought I’d let you know, as well as reassure you. I’ll have to go,” said the Minister, spotting his wife **beckoning** to him from the terrace.

“What was that all about?” asked Gerry King, once the Minister was **out of earshot**.

“The assistant. His boss has already told me he’s been asking **awkward** questions,” said Susan. “Anyway, it’s good he’s heard about Louise’s health issues. It means our communications are functioning well.”

Susan had gone off to talk to someone she knew from the Department of Health, so Gerry decided to go for a **wander round**. At the back of

the house, a footpath led down to a **paddock** where a couple of tall, **chestnut** **mares** were standing under a tree. Close by, Libby and Mac were lounging in the shade. Gerry **strolled over** and sat down. Soon, the subject of Louise Proudlock came up.

“Apparently she was taking some diet pills she’d got off the internet,” Mac said.

“She was always a bit **chubby**,” Libby said, “but the last time I saw her, she was looking very good. Seems whatever the pills were, they were working.”

“Where did you hear this?” asked Gerry.

“Everyone was talking about it at school. There were a few girls taking the same pills.”

Libby looked up towards the house. “I think someone’s coming to see you, daddy.”

Gerry saw Martin Merman coming down the hill towards them.

“Can you **intercept** him?” Libby asked. “He **makes my skin crawl**.”

“Oh, Martin’s harmless enough,” Gerry said, “but I’ll go and see what he wants.”

Gerry and Martin stood by the fence on the other side of the paddock.

“Are you here on business or pleasure?” asked Gerry.

“Bit of both,” said Martin. “The Minister was kind enough to invite me, and I knew there’d be a few people here I wanted to talk to, or who wanted to talk to me.”

“Well, it’s good I **bumped into** you. I’ve been meaning to talk to you about Simon Jackson.”

1. Decide if the statement is true (T), false (F), or the text does not say anything about it (D).

[check the answer]

1. Gerry seemed taken aback when Dr Jackson came to see him. **T / F / D**

2. Dr Jackson visited Gerry to advise him that he had decided to quit his job. **T / F / D**

3. Gerry was concerned about Dr Jackson's resignation because he knew some of their secrets. **T / F / D**

4. Gerry tried to grease Jackson's palm to make him stay with the company after all. **T / F / D**

5. Gerry couldn't believe that it would take two months for the inquest to be set in motion. **T / F / D**

6. To begin with, John was rather cynical about the conference and didn't want to attend it. **T / F / D**

7. The Deputy's assistant worked out the whole scam and wanted to give a tip-off to the police. **T / F / D**

2. Choose the correct answer.

[check the answer]

1. We’re hoping that the ambassador will soon ..... some light on what has become of the refugees who were apprehended last week.

   a. shine

   c. shed

   b. put

   c. share

2. I’ve had enough of my job and my callous boss so I’ll ..... in my notice at the drop of a hat if I find employment somewhere else.

   a. put

   c. give

   b. hand

   d. drop

3. I’m not the least bit surprised Claire is going to Egypt next week. She’s always had ..... feet!

   a. itchy

   c. long

   b. cold

   d. hot

4. We’ve dealt with all the glitches and mishaps, so now it’s full ..... ahead to get the project finished.

   a. steam

   c. power

   b. way

   d. steer

5. I'm afraid the doctor won't be able to fit you in ..... such short notice, but maybe you'd like to make an appointment for next week?

a. on

c. by

b. in

d. at

6. I appreciate it's a ..... shot, but my hunch is that this horse will win, so why don't we bet all the money on it?

a. blind

c. long

b. dark

d. black

3. Complete the sentences with the missing word – the number of letters is given.

[check the answer]

1. Now that we've discovered that our martial arts trainer is not really a master, we feel totally **d**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

2. Apparently Jane hasn't come to school today because she's sleeping off yesterday's **b**_ _ _ at John's.

3. The moment the taxi drew up at the gates, I saw an **i**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ mansion with a well-kept garden.

4. Susan's chain-smoking may have **c**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to the fact that she was diagnosed with larynx cancer last year.

5. But for the **d**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ weather, we could go jogging tonight. I wish it would stop raining!

6. As soon as the teacher was out of **e**_ _ _ _ _ _ , I took out my crib sheet and told Jane some of the answers.

4. Choose the correct synonyms for each word.

[check the answer]

1. ramshackle → dilapidated, decrepit, lavish, meagre

2. imposing → somnolent, grand, impressive, murky

3. strange → odd, defamatory, weird, bizarre

4. imitate → emulate, allure, entice, impersonate

5. bluntly → frankly, candidly, warily, disorderly

6. mock → bogus, jagged, phony, sham

5. Complete the sentences with appropriate forms derived from the words in capitals.

[check the answer]

1. Full of ..... love scenes and violence, this film has been banned in several countries. **STEAM**
2. She was summoned as a witness but didn’t come to any of the court ..... . **HEAR**
3. I can assure you that what happened at the meeting had no ..... on our final decision. **BEAR**
4. Several workers are reported to have been laid off for their ..... . **SUBORDINATE**
5. I’m a bit ..... with the way they treated me and that they left me in the lurch. **CONTENT**
6. Why don’t you try using some ..... tape to hang this poster on the door? **ADHERE**

CHAPTER 23

WHEN JOHN GUNN GOT TO WORK that morning, he was groggy from the after effects of Temazepam sleep. He hoped to slip into A&E and avoid anything **frenetic** for half an hour, until he **had his wits about him**. Inside, things looked quiet. He went to the doctor's room, made himself a coffee and sat down, staring into space. A minute later, the door **burst open**.

"John, I hoped you'd be here. We need you," said the nurse **in charge**.

"I'll be with you in a second," he said, slipping his jacket off.

Once the nurse had gone, he took a bottle from his bag and took out a tablet. "Just this once," he thought, "I need something to **perk me up** and **steady** my nerves."

In the resuscitation room, a baby was lying on one of the beds, with its worried-looking mother standing and watching the efforts of the nurses and doctor. "What have we got then?" John asked

"8-month-old girl. Brought in with a fever ten minutes ago. **Listless**. She's had paracetamol to lower her temperature. The temperature's gone down a bit. 39.5 now. I've had a look for a **rash**, but nothing's developed. Just wanted a second opinion," said the doctor.

"I'm worried it's **meningitis**," said the mother, when she heard mention of the word rash.

"Well, you let us do the worrying. Let's have a look," John said, beginning his examination of the girl. He listened to her breathing, then checked her skin and **prodded** in several places, before he seemed satisfied. "The temperature seems to be under control. We need to give

her some fluids and keep an eye on her. I think once the fluids are finished, she'll be able to go home," he said.

An hour after the mother and the baby girl had left, a taxi pulled up outside A&E and a man jumped out carrying a baby.

"It's my daughter... she's... I don't know what to do..." he said at the reception desk.

"Try and calm down a bit," said the receptionist, "and tell me what's happened."

"My wife... a couple of hours ago... she came with my daughter..."

The receptionist suddenly recognised the baby. "Yes, yes, I remember."

She sent the other receptionist to find John Gunn and he soon appeared. When he looked at the baby, he knew immediately what was wrong, and took them straight through to the resuscitation room. Ten minutes later the baby's temperature had started to drop and she was on a drip, breathing **with the aid** of oxygen.

"Will she be okay?" asked the father.

"It's too early to say. But you've done well to get her here when you did. The antibiotics should be **kicking in** by now, so we'll be looking for signs of improvement. The good thing is she isn't getting any worse. Where's your wife?"

"She couldn't face coming again," the man said thoughtfully. "Tell me, doctor... why did you send them home?"

"It was a decision based on your daughter's improved condition. There was no rash then. We had no reason to believe it was meningitis. Nine times out of ten, these things aren't meningitis. We have a set of procedures we go through," John said defensively.

"You know our history though... I mean my wife told you... This is our second child. Our first died of meningitis two years ago. We're terrified

of losing our daughter too. Every time she's shown the smallest signs of being unwell, we've relived the nightmare of my son's death. Every little **sniff**...every rise in temperature... every time she's been sick. You can't imagine what it's like..."

"It was awful. It could have been **fatal**. The baby could have died," John said to Kim Nicholls, as they were sitting in the Coach and Horses after work.

"But she didn't," said Kim, taking a sip of her wine.

"I'm not sure I can do this anymore."

"It wasn't your fault. I saw what happened. You were asked in there to give a second opinion. There wasn't any more you could have done."

"I know... I know," John said, putting his head in his hands.

"Are you still taking the sleeping tablets?" Kim asked rhetorically. "They're not a solution. **Look at the state of you**. You need a break, John. When's the inquest?"

"Less than three weeks to go now."

"Maybe you should take some time off before then. Re-focus a bit."

"Well, I do have an offer of a trip to Venice for a conference at the end of next week."

When they had finished their drinks, John got up. "I've forgotten something. I'll have to go back to the hospital for a minute, Kim. I'll see you tomorrow," he said, leaving Kim with the **distinct** belief that he was up to something.

That night John fought long and hard with his sleeplessness, **resisting** the **allure** of the Temazepam bottle. Several times he got up and went downstairs, sure that his **resolve** would break. But each time he returned to bed, **wide awake**, having **held out against** **temptation**. By 2 o' clock, he was still restless and got up again. He looked at Leslie for a moment.

In the **sepulchral** light, her youth had **fled**, to be replaced by **crow's feet**, **sagging** skin and **lifeless** hair.

At 7 o' clock, he was woken by Leslie coming downstairs. "I wondered where you were. What are you doing on the sofa?"

"Couldn't sleep, so I came down."

"You **look like death warmed up**, John."

"I'll be alright," he said. "It's just this inquest **preying on my mind**," he lied.

As Leslie was making him breakfast, his phone rang. "It's Gerry," he said. "Wonder what he wants at this time of the day." John wandered out into the **misty** garden to take the call.

"Anything interesting?" asked Leslie when he'd returned.

"He wanted to know if I was going to Venice next week."

"Venice? What are you going there for?" Leslie asked with suspicion in her voice.

"A conference. Didn't I mention it?"

"No, you didn't. But you should go. It'll do you good to have a break. Is it to do with your job?"

"The one he wants me to take in their company... yes."

"I thought you weren't interested."

"Well... never say never. Isn't that one of your favourite sayings?" he said drily, kissing Leslie on the forehead.

CHAPTER 24

“THERE’S SOMEONE TO SEE YOU,” the receptionist said.

“Who is it? I’m not expecting anyone.”

“Says his name is Robert Smythe... from the Department of Health.”

“Okay, send him in,” said Susan, with an **ominous** feeling descending on her.

Once he had gone, she walked along the corridor to Gerry’s office.

“I’ve just had a visit from the Deputy Minister’s assistant.”

“Right,” said Gerry, **instantly** on the alert. “I thought we’d **sidelined** him...”

“So did I.”

“I don’t suppose you’re going to tell me he was here on a **social visit**?”

“He’s thinking of going to the CFSMS.”

“Why?”

“Suspicious payments... that’s what he called them. The money for the Deputy Minister in other words.”

“That must have been what the Minister warned us about. How does he know about it?”

“I gave him a bag to give to the Deputy Minister. I suppose he couldn’t resist a look inside. He doesn’t know what the money was for... But he says he’s prepared to leave things in the hands of the CFSMS.”

“You’ve been **careless**, Susan. But it’s done now. What are we going to do?”

“He said he’ll wait a week for our response.”

“Okay. What do you think... should I contact Merman?”

1. Match the parts to create full sentences.

[check the answer]

1. In resus, a baby was lying on a bed, with its	**a.** in several places to rule out meningitis.
2. One look at the baby and he knew what	**b.** the misty garden to take a call.
3. The antibiotics will be kicking in any minute, so	**c.** from the after effects of the pills.
4. John strolled off into	**d.** we ought to see signs of improvement.
5. He prodded her skin	**e.** was up, and took them straight through to resus.
6. At work John was groggy	**f.** mother watching over.

2. Fill in the gaps with appropriate expressions.

[check the answer]

1. Hadn’t you better see a doctor, Mark? You look _____ death _____ up.

2. If I've been a bit absent-minded recently, it's because I have some problems _____ on _____ mind.
3. Look at the _____ of this room!
4. I'm glad Julie had her _____ about _____ when the tablecloth caught fire! She put it out in no time.
5. I want to know who is in _____ here! I wish to lodge a formal complaint.
6. Mr Wilson gives me the creeps. The way he stares at me _____ my skin _____ !

3. Retaining the meaning of the first sentence, complete the second one, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

[check the answer]

1. If we hadn't had that rope, we wouldn't have managed to rescue him. **AID**

   We ..... rope.

2. They were all unaware of her deteriorating condition. **DARK**

   They were all ..... her deteriorating condition.

3. There weren't enough seats so the meeting was called off. **BEING**

There ..... , the meeting was called off.

4. Many people have tried to solve that riddle. **STAB**

   Many people ..... that riddle.

5. The comedian's jokes offended the audience and they threw tomatoes at him. **PELTED**

   The comedian's jokes offended the audience and he

   ..... .

6. I've finally persuaded her not to marry him. **TALKED**

   I've finally ..... him.

7. Maybe the mouse escaped through that hole in the wall? **MAY**

   The mouse ..... through that hole in the wall.

4. Complete the sentences with the missing word – the number of letters is given.

[check the answer]

1. I remember there was a **d**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ smell of vinegar, which I particularly dislike.
2. She called her name a few times, going from room to room, but all that answered her was an **o**_ _ _ _ _ _ silence.
3. I wonder if you would have resisted the **t**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to try all the palatable food there was at the party!

4. You seem **l**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ , Susan. Is anything the matter?
5. By the time the police got to the fugitive's hide-out, he had already **f**_ _ _ .
6. I look like hell! I have matted and lacklustre hair and flabby arms, not to mention **c**_ _ _**'s** feet and wrinkles!
7. He's a clumsy and **c**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ oaf, so you'd better keep an eye on him and never leave him on his own.

CHAPTER 25

THAT AFTERNOON, John Gunn took a call from Libby, telling him that she was in Newcastle, sorting out some things for the new flat, which he was invited to come and see that evening. When he arrived, she opened the door with a glass of wine in her hand. “You’ve started early, I see,” John said.

“Why not,” Libby smiled. “Anyway, come on in and I’ll **give you the tour**.”

Ten minutes later, they were sitting on the balcony, admiring the view of the quayside when John’s phone rang. “It’s your dad,” he said, answering the call and wandering into the kitchen.

“Well?” Libby said, when he came back outside. “Was it about the mysterious Dr Jackson?”

“How do you know about that?”

“Dad said he was meeting him this afternoon. What did he say?”

“Nothing really, just that preparations for the inquest are going along well.”

An hour later, they were still sitting on the balcony, watching the sun go down.

“I was just thinking about Louise’s death,” Libby said **out of the blue**. “I mean 19’s no age to die, is it? I can’t imagine being dead.”

“Who can? It’s others we imagine being dead and we’re **left behind**. Louise had the easy job **in a way**. It was fairly quick. All the plans she had, and all the worries gone just like that. And her family left to deal with all that unfulfilled ambition. All those unlived years. All that **regret**. What’s set you off thinking about death?”

“Don’t you enjoy a good **riff** on the subject of death? There’s nothing more essential. We should never be afraid,” Libby said. “Are you?”

“Afraid of death... I rather doubt it. I’m surrounded by it. Every day I go to work, it’s there, hovering, circling, watching, waiting to strike.”

“I like that,” laughed Libby. “Surrounded by death. **Stalked** by it. **Wading** through it. Swimming in it. Fighting it! Come on, let’s go inside, it’s getting a bit **nippy** out here. Do you fancy a bit of Coldplay?” Libby asked going over to the iPod.

“Maybe something else... it’s Leslie’s favourite.”

It was well past midnight when John Gunn arrived home. Leslie was sitting in bed reading a book when he went into the bedroom, wondering what state her husband might be in.

“Where’ve you been?”

“Bumped into Libby. She’s up here furnishing the new flat, so she invited me round to have a look.”

“Where is it?”

“Down on the quayside. It’s a **smashing** little place. Good investment for the future, I’d say. Have you been waiting up for me?”

“Yes, I was worried. But you seem a bit perkier.”

“I am. And sorry, Leslie, I should have called, but we got talking and the time just flew by. Is everything all right?” he asked, sitting on the bed.

“You know, John, I realised we never talk about things any more...”

Here we go, thought John to himself. “You’re right,” he replied. “It’s this inquest and Louise Proudlock’s death.”

“That’s what I guessed. At least it’s what I guessed you’d say. Don’t you want to talk about it?”

“You know me, Leslie...”

“I’m not sure I do any more.”

“I’ll just go and get ready for bed,” John said, **retreating** hastily into the bathroom.

Half an hour later, after seeing Leslie’s bedside light go off, he came back into the bedroom and **crept into** bed.

CHAPTER 26

“I’M GLAD YOU COULD COME IN,” Gerry said, as Clive Selkirk sat down.

“What’s it about? Couldn’t we have arranged it over the phone?”

“Not really. It’s of a very sensitive nature.”

Gerry explained to him the situation with Robert Smythe.

“How long has he given you then?”

“Not long. Which is why I need your help. Get in touch with your friend, the one who got us the **medical records**, and ask him to find something on Smythe.”

“Such as?”

“Anything. Anything that we can use to **bargain with** him.”

“I see. Don’t you think it’s a bit of a long shot?”

“It is, but I’ve arranged for Martin Merman to go and see him as well... try and **talk some sense into him**. He can be very convincing.”

“So I’ve heard. Give me two days.”

1. Translate the missing parts of the sentences.

[check the answer]

1. Dziesięć minut później podziwiali krajobraz nadbrzeża.

Ten minutes later, ... the quayside.

2. Masz ochotę posłuchać trochę Coldplay?

..... of Coldplay?

3. Przepraszam, powinienem był zadzwonić, ale zagadaliśmy się i czas szybko minął.

..... , but we got
..... by.

4. O co chodzi? Nie mogliśmy załatwić tego przez telefon?

What ..... ?

..... the phone?

5. Było grubo po północy, kiedy John przyjechał do domu.

..... well ..... .

6. Kiedy zobaczył, że Leslie wyłączyła lampkę nocną, wrócił do sypialni i wślizgnął się do łóżka.

After ..... off, he .....
and ..... bed.

7. Skontaktuj się z twoim przyjacielem, tym, który załatwił nam kartę chorobową, i poproś go, żeby znalazł coś na Smytha.

Get ..... , the one who got ..... , and
..... on Smythe.

2. Use the words from the box in the correct form to complete the sentences.

[check the answer]

stalk **nippy** **uptake** **bargain** **al fresco** **suppress**
smashing **knees** **retreat** **wade**

1. Someone needs to bring Mike down a peg or two. He thinks he's the bee's ..... .
2. You will have to explain this to him a few times. He's really slow on the ..... .
3. Darling, could you fetch me my favourite fleece blanket? It's getting a bit ..... .
4. He was accused of ..... her for two months but she had no evidence to prove it.
5. Mike tried to ..... with the Arab over the price of the clay vase but to no avail.
6. We were forced to ..... thigh-deep through rubbish-laden water in order to get out of the flooded village.
7. Wow, you look ..... ! You'll knock everyone dead at the party.
8. Halfway through our ascent of the mountain, we had to ..... as it began to rain heavily.
9. We have to ..... this rebellion now before it gets out of control.
10. The wedding ceremony will take place in our small local church and will be followed by an ..... wedding reception.

3. Complete the sentences. Use from 2 to 6 words.

[check the answer]

1. I think it's about time she retired. She _____ working here for 30 years in May!
2. Had _____ Mary's financial support, we would never have built our own house.
3. He doesn't stand _____ finishing first. He's not fast enough.
4. It's high time you _____ cut. It's too long and you probably can't see because of that long fringe.
5. _____ had I left the shop than I realised I'd been given the wrong change.
6. I was late for work, told off by the boss, lost my wallet and to _____ I had my car stolen!

4. Insert commas in the following sentences.

[check the answer]

1. If I were you I wouldn't have gone to that party. It was so dull.
2. She said that Will had cheated on her which really surprised me.
3. Fancy seeing you here my dear friend! The last time I saw you was two years ago wasn't it?
4. To be honest I don't think Mary is capable of learning this poem by heart. It's far too long.
5. Having watched this film at least three times I have no intention of watching it again.

PART 4

CHAPTER 27

JOHN GAZED DOWN at the islands of the Venetian archipelago as the plane came in to land at Marco Polo airport. He was met by a middle-aged man with **flowing**, **jet-black**, curly hair bearing a card with "JOHN GUN" written on it. The man led him to the **jetties** beside the airport, and they sped off across the **lagoon** to the Lido. After the breezy calm of the journey across the water, the hotel was a **hive** of activity. Inside, a sign near reception welcomed delegates for PEAT – the Pan-European Antibiotic Treatments conference. John Gunn registered and received his conference pack, along with the key to his room, and a porter took him up to the fourth floor. Once he was gone, John opened the **shutters** and looked out across the lagoon towards the main island and the bell tower of Saint Mark's Square that seemed to hang **suspended** just above the water. He was still at the window when there was a knock at the door ten minutes later. He opened it and there was a man, who he **vaguely** recognised, smiling at him. "Dave Bowers," he said, "from Castle and Bird. Gerry told me you'd be arriving this afternoon, so I thought I'd come and say hello."

"Did I see your name down as one of the speakers?" John asked, as he invited him in.

"You did. 'Synergies in the information transfer process'."

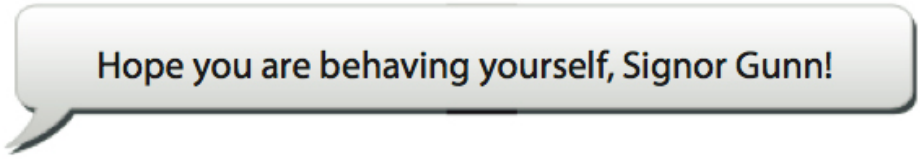
"One to look forward to?"

"Hardly. It's mostly for the benefit of the people from the Department of Health who are here. I'll be **furthering** the dialogue we've been having about Ceftoporzan."

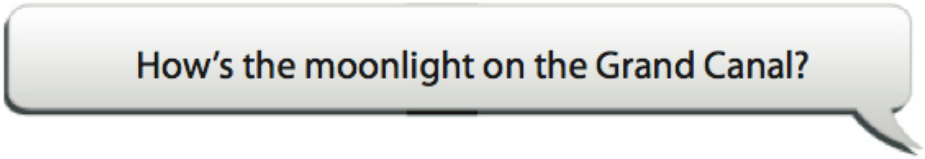
John wondered if he should have some idea of what Dave Bowers was talking about. Seeing the look on his face, Dave smiled, “Don’t worry, it’ll all be clear after the talk, the titles are always a bit of a **mouthful**. Would you like to go up to the rooftop bar, get a drink and I’ll run through the conference schedule with you and we can identify what’s important and what isn’t?”

“Why not,” said John.

That evening, there was a cocktail reception at one of the old palazzos that **line** the Grand Canal. The sun was setting as the delegates’ boat **chugged** across the lagoon and when they reached the palazzo it was **bathed** in a golden light. Candles had been lit along the edges of the jetty, guiding the guests towards the **footmen** in **tailcoats** standing at the **porticoed** entrance. Inside, cocktails were being served by white-gloved waiters who were circulating with silver trays. John felt **self-conscious** at first, but by the time he’d finished his second cocktail, he was **warming to** the evening ahead. He was wandering around, **eavesdropping** on conversations when he received a message from Leslie,



He deleted it and was about to put the phone back into his pocket when a message from Libby arrived.



He decided to reply to the message later, and headed up to the first floor of the **sumptuous** palazzo. The conference must be costing a fortune, John thought to himself, as he paused to look at the pictures **lining** the walls of the corridor. One particular painting, showing the Doge's Palace in the 16th or 17th Century, caught his attention.

It was the smell he recognised first. When it reached him, he closed his eyes and breathed it deeply in. Gently, a hand touched his arm. "It's a Canaletto, I believe," a familiar voice said. John opened his eyes and turned to Libby, who was standing there in a **sequinned** black evening **gown** and matching gloves, with a big smile on her face.

"What the devil are you doing here?"

"I've been sent to keep an eye on you," Libby said laughing. "And to make sure you enjoy yourself. Are you pleased to see me?"

"I can't think of a more pleasant surprise."

"Come on," Libby said, "I've discovered a **staircase** up to the third floor where there's a balcony overlooking the canal and the Rialto Bridge."

John followed her up the narrow, winding staircase. On the second floor Libby paused at a balustrade overlooking the ballroom below. "Come and have a look at this," she said in a low voice.

"What is it?"

"Martin Merman," she said, pointing to a youthful looking, middle-aged man in a white suit, with brilliantined black hair tied back in a ponytail.

“He’s quite a **specimen**,” said John. “What’s he doing here?”

“Working... networking. He’ll be **mingling** and talking to people, and dad’s probably got him coaching Dave Bowers so that he makes the best possible impression.”

Merman was sitting in a throne-like chair, talking to a woman in a black evening dress with a **plunging neckline**. Because of the acoustics of the room, Libby and John were able to follow his every word about the history of the palazzo.

“Byron stayed here while he was in Venice, accompanied by a sizeable **menagerie**,” Merman was **elucidating**. “He was most attached to a pet wolf that he brought with him, but he also had a fox, at least two monkeys and a pair of **cranes**. And what do you think he most liked to do while he was here? Swimming. He once swam with a couple of friends from the Lido across to the main island and up the Grand Canal. Quite something.”

“Does Byron’s poetry move you?” the woman asked.

“Very much so. It’s **on a par with** Blake. I find it inspiring. I’m embarrassed to say this, but *The Girl of Seville* often moves me to tears.”

“Oh, I don’t know that one, Martin,” the woman said. “Would you recite a little to me?”

“I’m afraid I couldn’t possibly **do it justice**,” Merman said.

“Come on,” Libby whispered, “I can’t listen to any more of his **claptrap**.”

“He certainly knows his stuff,” said John as they **ascended** to the third floor.

“That’s what you’re supposed to think,” Libby said. “But Byron didn’t stay here; it was another palazzo on the other side of the Grand Canal. And *The Girl of Seville* was *The Girl of Cadiz*. He **blends** a few facts

together and creates a lovely **tale**, but it requires that his audience knows less than he does."

"Clever fellow," John said.

"I can think of other ways to describe him," Libby said, as they went out onto the empty balcony.

The full moon cast its light onto the Grand Canal and the reflection **rippled** as the gondolas and **vaporettos** **weaved** **to and fro** below. "What are you really doing here?" John asked.

"There was an empty place. I think my dad was going to encourage you to bring Leslie. But I got to him first and managed to convince him I'd be an **asset** to the conference. You're not disappointed, are you?"

"**Far from it**," said John, "far from it."

The following morning, John was sitting in an armchair outside the conference room, looking through an article on 6th generation antibiotics from the conference literature, waiting for Dave Bowers' talk.

"Mind if I join you?" John looked up. A casually dressed man in jeans, moccasins and a white shirt was looking down at him. "**Be my guest**."

"Who are you with?" the man asked as he sat down, putting his iPad on the table.

"Castle and Bird. I mean, I don't actually work for them, I'm a guest."

"I see. Your man's on next then... Dave Bowers."

"Yes," said John, wondering who he was speaking to.

"The Ceftoporzan project seems to be going well. I'm interested to hear what Bowers has to say today. It could make a difference..."

Libby came walking quickly across the room towards them. "John," she said, "I've got us a couple of **prime seats** inside. Let's go."

"You'll have to excuse me, I'm afraid," he said, smiling to the man.

“You know who that was?” Libby asked, once they were out of earshot.

“No, he didn’t introduce himself. Just some doctor, I suppose.”

“He wasn’t. He’s a journalist. And not one of ours. What did he want?”

“Just being friendly, I suppose.”

“They’re never just being friendly. Did he ask you who you were with?”

“He did as a matter of fact.”

“Did you tell him much?”

“No, he’d just come a minute before. Although he was just about to get talking about Ceftoporzan.”

“No surprise there. You have to be careful with these people, John. Ask them who they are when they come up to you, and be a bit **cagey** with what you say to them.”

CHAPTER 28

“ANY LUCK?” asked Gerry.

“Nothing. I told you it was a long shot. If this bloke’s worried about the passing of money, he’s not going to be corrupt, is he?”

“I suppose not. What about his... you know... private relations?”

“Nothing. My contact has been through his **phone records** for the last four years. Nothing. No affairs, no speeding fines, no **defaulting on mortgage** payments... He’s clean.”

“Okay, well, that’s no surprise.”

“Did Merman get anywhere?”

“He got about as far as his door. He went to see him and Smythe threw him out.”

“What the hell did he say to him?”

“It was rather what he did to his daughter.”

“What?”

“He treated her once for some ankle problem and behaved... what was the word Smythe used... inappropriately. In other words, he **felt her up**.”

“So, what now?”

“I think we can do something. Smythe rang me up to ask me what the hell I was doing, sending Merman to him. I managed to calm him down, and we started to talk a bit... about Merman. He offered me a deal. If I deliver Merman’s head to him on a plate, he’s prepared to forget about the money.”

“Right. He doesn’t literally want Merman’s head on a plate, I suppose. What’s he got in mind?”

“Wants to go to the Police.”

“Can’t he just do that anyway?”

“It’d be his daughter’s word against Merman... and Merman is a **slick operator**. Plus, the business he’s in... massage, joint manipulation... it’s all very hands on. Smythe wants to make sure he doesn’t just **wriggle out** of it. Which is where you come into it.”

“More work for my contact?”

“Yes.”

“Well, you pay plenty, so he won’t be too **bothered**. What do you want him to do?”

“Bring me Merman’s head on a plate.”

“How long have we got?”

“A couple of weeks. He’s agreed to wait till after the inquest.”

1. Decide if the statement is true (T), false (F), or the text does not say anything about it (D).

[check the answer]

1. The conference turned out to be quite a stylish and grand affair. **T / F / D**

2. The car journey from the airport to the hotel was wearying for John. **T / F / D**

3. Libby’s presence at the conference took John by surprise. **T / F / D**

4. Robert Smythe's phone had been tapped to get some information about him. **T / F / D**

5. Smythe's daughter wasn't very keen on Merman because he had once groped her. **T / F / D**

6. Smythe hired John to get rid of Merman. **T / F / D**

2. Match the phrases and expressions with their translations.

[check the answer]

1. on a par with	**a.** przeciwnie
2. to and fro	**b.** proszę bardzo, nie krępuj się
3. out of the blue	**c.** oprowadzać kogoś
4. to give sb a tour	**d.** tam i z powrotem
5. be my guest	**e.** równo z, na poziomie z
6. far from it	**f.** jak grom z jasnego nieba, niespodziewanie

3. Choose the correct answer.

[check the answer]

1. My name is Yakobordolipo, but you can call me Yako if it's too much of a ..... for you.

a. mouthful **c.** handful

b. armful
d. headful

2. Being ..... , he preferred not to take the floor at the conference.

a. self-confident
c. self-conscious
b. self-contained
d. self-induced

3. We were treated to a very ..... meal at the Gray's. We're beholden to them for their red-carpet treatment.

a. sumptuous
c. meagre
b. smashing
d. fetching

4. Jane was wearing a dress with a ..... neckline and some men couldn't take their eyes off her cleavage.

a. exposed
c. falling
b. plunging
d. revealed

5. What she was saying was absolute ..... . I usually avoid this woman because she bores me to death.

a. claptrap
c. lie
b. sense
d. stupid

6. Sarah is very ..... about her husband. Sometimes I wonder if she has a spouse at all!

a. reserved
c. quiet
b. taciturn
d. cagey

4. Match the words with their synonyms.

[check the answer]

1. sumptuous	**a.** exemplify, expound
2. claptrap	**b.** nonsense, gibberish, rubbish
3. elucidate	**c.** lavish, luxurious
4. self-conscious	**d.** obstinate, obdurate
5. well-off	**e.** bashful, insecure
6. stubborn	**f.** opulent, affluent

5. Complete the sentences with words beginning with the given letters. The words are parts of idioms and collocations.

[check the answer]

1. Cathy is the spitting **i**..... of her mother. They even have moles in the same places!
2. I think I'll go and visit my in-laws now. Actually, on second **t**..... , I'll do the shopping first.
3. If you've got toothache, Mark, don't put off going to the dentist. A **s**..... in time saves nine!
4. You could have backed me **u**..... , you know. Your support would have helped me a lot.
5. I'm afraid I can't prepare that invoice now. I'm really snowed **u**..... at the moment.

CHAPTER 29

“ANY PLANS FOR this evening?” Libby asked, as she sat having a drink with John.

“I could do with a night off after all the intellectual stimulation of today.”

“Well, I might have just the thing. Do you fancy coming to a jazz club? I asked the bloke on reception if he could recommend something a bit different for this evening, and he suggested a place near the University. We can get a water taxi over there. What do you say?”

“**Count me in**.”

As they set off across the water, a fog was descending on the lagoon and the approaching buildings began to disappear. When they got out of the boat, the sound of jazz could be heard coming from a door, around which four people were standing smoking. John and Libby descended a staircase lit by a red **bulb** and entered a low-ceilinged club in the labyrinthine cellar. They got a drink, found a couple of seats, and listened to the music for a while.

“I’m going out for a cigarette,” Libby said. “Come with me.”

John followed her up the stairs. Once she was outside, Libby pulled out her cigarette case.

“I got some grass off some student I met in a café this morning,” she said.

“Are you serious?” John asked **incredulously**.

She opened the case. “Never more so. Come on, let’s go for a walk and **get high**.”

They wandered off into the **fogbound**, narrow streets, walking beside canals and crossing bridges. The streets and alleyways were **deserted**, but every once in a while a lone person or couple would **ghost out** of the mist and walk past them before **vanishing**. Occasionally they would hear voices or footsteps, which **faded** without **materialising** into human form. After a while, Libby stopped. “We’re lost. I don’t think we’re going to find the club again. Let’s keep walking. We’ll come to one of the bigger canals or the lagoon **at some point** and then we can get a taxi back,” she said, lighting up another joint and passing it to John.

“It’s the inquest next week,” he said. “I’ll be glad when it’s over.”

“I think everyone will. Mum seems more **troubled** by it than dad. Although they’re both wondering what Simon Jackson will say.”

“If he tells it like it was, we’re all in trouble.”

“I spoke to dad this afternoon. You know they’ve got Merman coaching him... It’ll be his **swansong**.”

“What on earth do you mean?” asked a curious John.

“I’ve said too much already,” Libby said as they were crossing a bridge.

A boat was passing silently beneath. At first, they paid it **scant** attention, but when they saw it was all black and the cabin had black curtains drawn around its windows, they both stopped, **transfixed**. “Is that what I think it is?” Libby asked of the **spectral** sight.

“Have you ever thought as a **hearse** goes by, that one day soon you’re going to die[21],” John **chanted** in a funereal tone.

“Stop it, John... please stop it...”

“I’m sorry,” he said, seeing how upset Libby had become. “We always used to sing it when we were kids.”

Libby turned and watched the boat disappear. “You know, I think about Louise. Poor Louise. Do you?”

“Often. I haven’t told anyone this, but I dreamed about her just after she died,” John confessed. “As she was when they brought her in. ‘I’m not going to die, am I?’ That’s what she asked me. That’s why I was taking the sleeping tablets.”

“Really?”

“Yes. How do you answer a question like that, Libby?”

“How did you answer it?”

“I just tried to reassure her.”

They walked on a while, silent in the silent fog.

“What was she like?” John asked.

“I didn’t know her that well. She **showed me round** the university when I went for my interview. Nice girl. It’s just such a tragedy,” she said, stopping. “Can you hold me, John... it... I don’t know... it upsets me... thinking about what happened to her...”

As she rested her head on his shoulder and held him **tight**, he closed his eyes. ‘Libby, Li-ber-ty,” he whispered softly.

“Does death ever get easier?” Libby asked, without lifting her head.

“I suppose it does,” John said, “the more you experience it.”

“And... honestly... do you fear it?”

“No.”

“It must get easier with age.”

“I don’t know about that. I’ve met middle-aged men who are terrified of dying. Old people too. But, you know, my parents told me when I was still young that death was just like falling asleep... that there was nothing to fear.”

“That’s what all parents say though, isn’t it.”

“But they meant it.”

“And you believed them?”

“Why not... I can think of many more things that strike fear deep into me...”

“Such as?”

“Being paralysed... suffering from **locked-in syndrome**... being **trapped** with no way out...”

“Trapped?”

“Yes... in life... feeling that you’re just going from A to B and back again every day and it’s going to continue forever like that. It’s not the death you have to fear then, is it... it’s the life...”

“Let’s walk a bit further,” said Libby, stepping back from John, but keeping hold of his hand.

After the boat ride through the **befogged** darkness, walking into the brightly-lit hotel lifted the **gloom** that had **enveloped** them. The delegates to the conference were all in the bar and there was a karaoke session going on. John ordered two Long Island Iced Teas and they went and sat as far away from the singers as they could get. When Abba’s Mama Mia was announced, a group of seven people got up and **roared** their way through the song. The next song was The Beatles, All You Need is Love. An even larger group got up and followed the words faithfully, until they got to the **chorus**, at which point, and in perfect harmony, they began to sing “All you need is drugs... all you need is drugs, drugs... drugs is all you need...” Libby turned to John with a **grim** look on her face. “You’d better get used to this. This is how pharma people enjoy themselves.”

After the final session of the conference, there was a free afternoon before the **farewell** dinner and gala evening at La Fenice. John and Libby wandered down to the hotel’s private beach and found a pair of sun loungers away from the other delegates. A waiter appeared and asked if they wanted anything.

“Two Mai Tais, please,” Libby said.

“It’s been quite educational, this conference,” John said. “So much so that I’m seriously thinking about your dad’s job offer.”

“Well, that is good news.”

“**Keep it to yourself** for the moment though.”

They sat back and watched the big ships on the horizon heading towards the port at Mestre.

“Ceftoporzan’s a big thing for Castle and Bird, isn’t it?” John asked.

“There’s nothing bigger at the moment.”

“And the challenge is getting it into the system... getting it accepted. As a doctor, you just see these drugs as products that someone is trying to market. They’re usually already through the trials stage and licensed by the time you come into contact with them. But there’s a long, **intricate** process before it gets to that stage. The development of the drug is a straightforward business...”

“Well, I wouldn’t quite **put it like that**. There’s Louise’s death, and those other two people who suffered bad reactions. It all has to be dealt with.”

“What two other people?”

“Didn’t you know about it?”

“No.”

“Do you know what you’ll be doing?” Libby asked, attempting to **deflect** John’s thoughts.

“Creating opinions and beliefs... I got that from Bowers’ little **spiel**.”

“In other words, communicating. That’s all they ever talk about in Castle and Bird, you’d better get used to it. You have to become a master of the dark art of communication,” Libby laughed. “You have to be ahead of the Department, ahead of the doctors, and ahead of the

journalists. You put ideas into people's heads, and if you get them all working together, you're winning."

"Do you think I can do it?"

"The challenge will be how you cope with **switching sides** now. You just have to get out of one **mindset**... the doctor's mindset... and into another mindset... the pharmaceutical mindset. You'll **be a natural**, John. You **have a good way about you**, I can feel it. People will listen. The people at the Department of Health will listen to you. And people will believe. Dad understands your potential. That's why he offered you the job."

"I hope you're right."

"I'm sure I am. Once Merman, or whoever replaces him, gets to work on you, you'll become a big asset."

"Merman? He keeps **popping up**," John said, smiling.

"He does. And it's no accident. Have you ever wondered what he does?"

"It has **crossed my mind**."

"Well, you know he does his coaching thing. That's just one of many things he does. His background's in NLP. Castle and Bird saw the way things were going and used him initially to run some NLP training which involved bringing together people from the Department of Health and communications people from the company. It was a good idea because it introduced a common language and created a certain shared mindset."

"What does Merman do now?"

"He's like the Sun around which everything orbits. He's starting to get a **Messiah complex** though," Libby said with a smile. "Seriously, though, he's been doing a lot of media training for Castle and Bird and the Department of Health. It's a similar idea, create a common message and a shared culture, but it goes a step further, because it draws the

media in, making them a central part, but also managing them very effectively. Then, when Castle and Bird's people speak to people from the Department and the media, they're immediately **on the same wavelength**."

"So you **rate** Merman quite highly then?"

"He's one of the best at what he does. Dad values him highly. Although he makes my skin crawl."

"Why?"

"Dad suggested I had some sessions with him before my exams to help me focus. I was fairly ambivalent about the whole

thing, but I decided it couldn't do any harm."

"And?"

"Well, he was good at what he did, I suppose. But at heart he's a **dirty old man**. I couldn't stand it when he touched me. You know, the reassuring hand on the shoulder or thigh... I told dad about it, and he said it was just Martin. He'd always been the open, spiritual type, you know, **touchy-feely**. When you're thirty, it gives you a certain **mystique**. But when you're forty five... a middle-aged bloke dealing with a **sensuous**, **wised-up** teenage schoolgirl... what more is there to say..."

As John was waiting for the call for boarding in the airport departure lounge the next day, he took his tablet out of his bag. Intrigued by the man in the white suit, he had been meaning to have a look at Martin Merman's website since the evening in the palazzo. What Libby had told him the previous day had only served to further **pique** his curiosity. He googled his name and the first link was to www.timeisnow.com. In the banner image, Martin Merman, his hands together as if communicating with a **deity**, reached out to his audience with a **savant's** smile. Beneath,

the initial message was a **rallying cry**. “The time is NOW to become the master of your potential. WELCOME TO WHO YOU CAN BECOME.”

John **skipped down** through the page, it being unnecessary to read in detail as key phrases jumped out. “We all live in two worlds, the external and the internal... transforming our own negative **core** beliefs with a positive energy exchange between head and heart... an authentic aspirational journey... harmonise **distortion**... transform the world around you... build bridges... **bridge** gaps... monitor... manage... reach out to your **inner self.**”

Finally, at the bottom of the page, Merman **backed up** his **relentlessly** positive message with an impressive sounding summary of his qualifications. “Martin M Merman is a Certified Master NLP Practitioner Life Coach (M.NLP), Clinical Hypnotherapist (C. ht), and Dharma Holder in the Sangha Wat (DH.SWat)”

He was about to open a page of **testimonials** from satisfied clients when the announcement was made that the flight was ready for boarding. As he waited at the gate, he noticed out of the corner of his eye a figure pacing about nervously. When he turned round, he saw it was Martin Merman. John boarded the flight and Merman, the last to board, followed five minutes later, taking a seat three **rows in front**. As the plane taxied to the end of the **runway** ready for **take-off**, it was noticeable that Merman was very **fidgety**, behaviour that continued all the way through what **turned out** to be a **turbulent** flight to Schiphol. As they waited for their connecting flight in Amsterdam, John wandered over to Merman.

“John Gunn,” he said, taking Merman by surprise. “I believe we have a **mutual** friend. Gerry King?”

“Ah, Gerry, yes. Have you been at the conference in Venice?” Merman asked.

“Yes. I saw you around.”

“Martin M Merman,” he said, offering his hand to John, who noticed that it was still **trembling** slightly as he shook it.

PART 5

CHAPTER 30

CLIVE SELKIRK WALKED into Gerry's office with the air of a satisfied man. Seeing a face he didn't recognise, he stopped.

"Clive, this is Robert Smythe. I thought I'd invite him along after what you told me on the phone."

The two strangers shook hands and Clive Selkirk sat down.

"Let's **cut to the chase** then," said Gerry. "What have you got for us?"

"Five different women, four under the age of twenty as it happens, who are prepared to **go on record about** Merman."

"On record?" asked Smythe.

"They're prepared to go to the Police. They're all cases of sexual **assault**. Mostly **improper** touching, although he did expose himself to one woman and place her hand on his..."

"**Spare** us **the details**," said Gerry.

"Will it be enough to get him **put away**?" Smythe asked.

"I should think so. And he'll end up on the sex offenders register, so that'll be the end of his career once people find out. I'll **courier across** the details," said Clive. "I'm in a bit of a rush, so do you mind if I dash off?"

When Clive had left, Smythe stood up. "I'll **be on my way** too. But I'll be in touch."

"Hang on a minute," said Gerry. "I've fulfilled my part of the bargain, what about yours?"

"Don't worry. Once those women have reported what happened to the Police, you won't be hearing from me again."

“And the money?”

“What money... I know nothing about it...”

1. Choose the correct answer a, b or c.

[check the answer]

1. When John and Libby went for a stroll, the streets seemed...

- **a.** desolate.
- **b.** crowded.
- **c.** ghastly.

2. John’s parents once likened death to...

- **a.** a horrifying moment.
- **b.** falling asleep.
- **c.** a pain-free experience, but fraught with fear.

3. The conference in Venice...

- **a.** might have convinced John to accept Gerry’s job offer.
- **b.** confirmed John’s initial feelings that it wasn’t the job for him.
- **c.** made him think about the wrongs of pharmaceutical companies.

4. The most challenging part of drug production is...

- **a.** the promotion of a drug.
- **b.** the development of a drug.
- **c.** getting the drug approved.

5. In Libby’s opinion, Merman...

- **a.** is a lecher.

b. knows very little about what he's doing.

c. has contributed very little to Castle and Bird.

2. Complete the sentences with the missing word – the number of letters is given.

[check the answer]

1. As soon as Judy came onto the stage and grabbed the mic, the chatter began to **f**_ _ _ .
2. Not having seen her mother for a long time, the girl hugged her **t**_ _ _ _ and said she had missed her.
3. His parents waved him **f**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ , hoping he would soon return e safe and sound.
4. I believe that Sagrada Familia is one of the most **i**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ architectural designs.
5. If Martha weren't a smart and **s**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ woman, Martin wouldn't have fallen in love with her.
6. Tom and Max always see eye to eye because they are on the same **w**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and understand each other without words.

3. Translate the words in the brackets.

[check the answer]

1. The beams in the cottage were so **r**..... (spróchniały) that the house could collapse any day.

2. The police are still looking for a child who mysteriously **v**..... (zniknąć) from the garden last week.
3. He was just standing there, **t**..... (sparaliżowany ze strachu), as if he had just seen a ghost.
4. I was scared stiff when the dog was **g**..... (warczeć) at me, but I managed to keep my wits about me.
5. The **t**..... (start samolotu) was delayed because one of the passengers had had his bag stolen.
6. It was the **m**..... (wspólny) interest in poetry that made us come closer together.

4. Complete the sentences with phrases and expressions from the box.

[check the answer]

count sb in	**show sb around**	**keep it to yourself**	**on one's way**	
	in due course	**out of the blue**		

1. 'Jane, we all want to chip in for a present for Laura? Do you want to join us?' 'Yeah, ...'
2. 'Can I tell anyone that you two are engaged?' 'I'd rather you ..... for the time being.'
3. 'John, I think I'm going into labour. How quickly can you get here?' 'Stay put, I'm ..... .'
4. We'll inform you about the results ..... . Do you have any more questions about our company?

5. As far as I know, this problem didn't come ..... . They had been aware of it for a long time.
6. Hello, Auntie Liz! Leave your bags in the hall and I'll ..... . Shall we go upstairs first?

5. Correct the mistakes in the following sentences or put a tick if a sentence is correct.

[check the answer]

1. I wish I hadn't have to learn German at school. Not once have I had a chance to use it! .....
2. Despite of his tiredness, he managed to find his way out of the forest and get home. .....
3. If there were less cars in the world, it wouldn't be as polluted as it is. .....
4. More and more people admit that they may be suffering from "ringxiety" and that they are addicted to using mobile phones. .....
5. The town you're talking about is three hours south from Lancaster if memory serves me right. .....
6. Only by unremitting practice and constant revision you can learn a foreign language. .....

CHAPTER 31

ON HIS RETURN FROM ITALY, John Gunn had only five days before the inquest. He'd already decided against returning to work, but soon regretted his decision as he began **brooding**. Returning home also soon brought him back to **domestic** reality. Leslie was at school during the day, but in the mornings and evenings a silence hung over the house **pleading** not to be broken. Twice Leslie asked him **outright** if there was anything wrong, and twice he explained without any conviction that the inquest was preying on his mind, and that once it was over, he was sure things would return to normal.

The day before the inquest, Gerry called. After comparing notes on the Venice conference, Gerry got round to the real reason he was ringing. "I wanted to **brief** you on a few things before tomorrow."

"What's there to be briefed about? Isn't everything fairly straightforward?"

"Mostly. You know there's no chance of questions being raised about the blood sample..."

"I hope not."

"I just thought I'd mention it."

"Let's forget it, Gerry."

"Now... Jackson. I've had a visit from him and he gave me an outline of what he's going to say. The thing is, John, I can't tell you the details. I had to promise not to. But there is the possibility that the media might take an interest in what's happening. I thought I'd better warn you. So if any journalists come sniffing around, you should say nothing."

"Are you going to tell me what's going on?"

“I can’t.”

“He’s not going to change his story, is he?”

“No, no, nothing like that. At least, if he is, he didn’t tell me.”

“Is yours the first case?” Leslie asked, as John stood in the hall, **adjusting** his tie in the mirror the next day.

“Second. But the first one will be a quick one. Bloke in his 30s **ODed** on heroin and was found in his **sheltered housing** by the **warden**. Lived alone... no family have **come forward**.”

“I see. And are you sure you don’t want me to come with you?” Leslie asked. “I’ve told them at work I might not be able to come in this morning.”

“No, it’s okay. These things are **hellishly dull** usually. I’d rather just get it out of the way with the minimum of **fuss**.”

“Well, call me when it’s over, will you?”

A minute later, a taxi pulled up outside. Leslie gave John a kiss and wished him good luck.

As the taxi pulled over to the **kerb** outside the coroner’s court, John saw Gerry coming down the steps. “I thought you weren’t coming,” he smiled, as John stepped out of the car. “I just wanted a quick word before we go in. I’m assuming you don’t have a **solicitor** advising you.”

“You’re assuming right. The **hospital trust** offered me someone, but there didn’t seem much point. Anyway, what was it you wanted to speak to me about?” John asked, sensing there was something else.

“Louise Proudlock’s family. I’ve spoken to them this morning. And I think it’d be a good idea if you spoke to them once everything’s over.”

“Of course. How did they seem?”

“Accepting. They’re not here to blame anyone, just to get some kind of closure.”

“Any chance of a **civil action**?”

“No.”

“Are you going to give me any clues about what Jackson’s going to say?”

“Still can’t. But don’t worry, John, it’s not going to **impact upon** you, although it’s sure to **raise a few eyebrows**.”

Ten minutes later the door to the inquest room opened and the four **participants** in the previous case **filed out**. The local newspaper and radio station had sent reporters, but they paid no attention to them as they walked past.

“Right, we’re on,” said Gerry, turning to John.

The outside doors swung open. Susan came in, followed by Simon Jackson, and three steps behind Martin Merman.

“What’s he doing here?” asked John.

“He’s been coaching Jackson on his communication. Merman’s good at that sort of thing.”

“So I hear. And who’s that?” whispered John Gunn, noticing a fourth person, immaculately dressed in a **sober**, dark suit.

“The Deputy Minister’s assistant. We thought it useful to have an **official presence**. He can see for himself what’s going on, rather than read about it or hear about it second-hand. Anyway, let’s go in, this bloke’s waiting for us, I think,” Gerry said, **indicating** a court official who was looking their way.

“I’ll see you inside,” John said, “I just need a minute to **compose myself**.”

He stood back a little way from the door and watched as the **clerk of the court** directed people to their seats. The local reporters, familiar with

the procedure, took their places quickly at the desk set aside for the press. Everyone else followed, until Louise Proudlock's family entered last, making their way to the front row of seats in the simply furnished room. As they were sitting down, John slipped in and made his way quickly to his seat. Once the doors were closed, the clerk asked everyone to stand. A moment later, the tall, **upright** figure of the **coroner**, Dr Jacob Singleton, walked in, **exuding** an air of **gravitas**.

Out of the corner of his eye, John noticed the doors open slightly and two men slipping quietly inside and **edging over** to the press desk.

Once Singleton had opened the inquest, the witnesses were called one by one and the story of what happened on the fateful day began to **unfold**.

John, unable to maintain concentration for too long due to nerves, kept **stealing glances** at Louise Proudlock's family, who were listening intently to everything that was being said. What, John wondered, were they really hoping for? He wasn't sure how he would feel in their situation. This, he reflected, would be the one and only time they would hear the full story of the critical day from all perspectives. They would be experiencing **vicariously** their daughter's final moments.

Somewhat lost in these thoughts, John was surprised to hear his name being called, **summoning** him to the witness table. He walked slowly forward, being careful to avoid too much eye contact with the coroner, who introduced him and invited him to **relate** his version of the day's events. Once John had finished, the coroner indicated that he had a few questions.

"Have you had any similar experiences in the past, Dr Gunn... patients being brought to you from clinical trials?"

"No, Sir."

“And was there any doubt in your mind that Louise Proudlock had been given the placebo?”

“There was, Sir. Dr Jackson informed me that Ms Proudlock had been given the placebo. My initial examination suggested that she might have been given the trial drug. When I asked Dr Jackson if he was 100% certain, his answer left some room for doubt.”

“What did he say, Dr Gunn?”

“That he was as certain or sure as he could be, Sir,” John Gunn said, looking up and noticing that the members of the press had become more attentive. “But he also confirmed that he hadn’t **double-checked** before he had brought Ms Proudlock to us.”

“Thank you, Dr Gunn. Let me remind you that I’m not **seeking** to **apportion blame** here... I’m **merely** trying to establish the exact nature of what happened that day.”

“Of course, Sir,” John said.

The coroner asked several more questions about the treatment Louise Proudlock had received and how her condition had deteriorated, carefully explaining any medical terms for her family where necessary. When he had finished, he thanked John for his testimony, and John returned to his seat a relieved man.

Next, Dr Jackson was summoned to the witness stand. He looked **ashen** with nerves as he began to relate his version of the day’s events, starting from the preparations for the trial. John Gunn, after the stress of his testimony, began to lose interest a little. But as Jackson’s version of events turned to the pre-trial interview with Louise Proudlock, it became clear that the moment of truth was approaching. John glanced around. Everyone was watching and listening closely to Simon Jackson.

“...I **ran through** the standard questions with Ms Proudlock. Once the form was almost completed, I asked her if there was any reason why she

believed she shouldn't be participating in the trials that morning. She initially replied no, although I noticed that she was somewhat hesitant. I asked her again, and pointed out to her that the question was a very serious one, and that it was in her own interest to make a truthful declaration. At this point she told me that she had been taking some dieting pills that she had bought off the internet. She asked me if they were likely to be potentially dangerous in connection with the study. I **impressed upon** her that if there was any doubt, she should **withdraw**, before asking her if she knew what they were. She told me they were homeopathic and asked my **views** on homeopathic medicines. We didn't have a **great deal of** time for an **in-depth** discussion, so I suggested to her that she should simply withdraw. She told me that she had been taking the tablets throughout the previous trials. **Mindful of** the administrative problems that might result from her withdrawal, I allowed myself to be persuaded that the risk was **negligible**..."

So this was what Gerry hadn't wanted to tell him about, John thought to himself. Finally, he was beginning to understand. It was **artful**, even beautiful, the way they had protected Ceftoporzan.

Once Dr Jackson had finished his **testimony**, the coroner asked him to remain at the stand while he asked him some questions. Initially, he focussed on the interview with Louise Proudlock, before moving on to the previous trials. "You said that Ms Proudlock had been taking the tablets throughout the previous trials. Do you know if they were the same tablets?"

"No, Sir. I think the nature of the drugs market on the internet means there can be no guarantee of that."

"And can you tell us whether during previous trials Ms Proudlock received the placebo or the trial drug?"

"Only the placebo, Sir."

The coroner asked several more questions, before thanking Dr Jackson, who returned to his seat a relieved looking man. As he sat down, Merman placed an **avuncular** hand on his shoulder and whispered something to him.

After Dr Jackson's testimony, the rest of the inquest proceeded in a straightforward manner. Presently, the coroner moved on to his summing up, highlighting the critical points in the events of the **fateful** day, along with the role played by the diet tablets.

"To conclude," he said, coming to the end of his summing up, "we simply do not and cannot know exactly what led to this death," before **delivering an open verdict** and offering his deepest condolences to the family of Louise Proudlock.

Once the coroner had **departed**, John left the room as quickly as possible. His role in the events of the fateful day was now officially described and **a line had been drawn under things**. The same could not be said for Simon Jackson, however. His testimony was **destined** to get him a **rocky ride** during the GMC enquiry ahead of him. Why, John wondered, had he highlighted the things he did?

One of the two men who had slipped last into the room came out and approached John.

"Chris Smith," he said, offering his hand. "We met last week in Venice."

"That's right," said John.

"You must be glad that's over."

"I am. It's an end to things."

"Not for Jackson. Were you surprised by what he said? I mean, I got the sense that it was unexpected..."

"It's not for me to say really," John said, mindful of Gerry's warning about the press. "As the coroner emphasised, we were there to find out

the truth."

Gerry came out of the room, and **spotting** John's **predicament**, came quickly over.

"Chris," he said, **acknowledging** the journalist.

"Gerry. Have you got a moment for a quick chat?"

"Not really, no."

"I was just wondering your reaction to Jackson's testimony."

"You heard the same thing as we did. Listen, we really do have to go."

"Sure," Chris Smith said, **resigned to** the fact that he wasn't going to get much out of either John or Gerry.

Gerry and John walked outside. "Thank goodness you arrived when you did," John said. "He was beginning to get annoying."

"He was **fishing for** information. He's got a story in his head, I'm sure, and needs a few comments and opinions to turn it into a **workable** article. Let's go for a drink. We need to talk."

"Okay. But before we do, I'll just go and offer my condolences to Louise's family. It's the right thing to do," John said, going back into the building.

As he was coming out five minutes later, Martin Merman was just ahead of him. As John walked over to Gerry, he watched Merman go over to two men in suits. One of them opened the back door of a car and Merman got in, followed by the man.

"What's that all about?" John asked.

"I'll tell you in the pub," Gerry said. "It's a long story."

CHAPTER 32

“JACKSON’S TESTIMONY,” Gerry said as they sat down with their drinks, “what did you **make of it**?”

“Surprised, as you’d expect. But why the need for all the secrecy...”

“There’s more to it than you think,” Gerry said, taking a long drink of his pint. “That’s what I wanted to speak to you about.”

“Do I want to hear this?”

“Yes. You see, Louise was taking those diet pills, but she never actually told him about it. We found out later. All of that about the interview, well, it was just a version of what happened.”

“A version?”

“Well, the **essential** facts are as he told them. She **was on** those pills. And, as the official records show, she got the placebo. The two things interacted in a fatal way... blame the diet pills...”

“Is that what you think happened with the Ceftoporzan... that the diet pills caused some fatal **adverse** reaction?”

“It’s a distinct possibility,” Gerry said, taking another long drink of his pint. “We managed to get hold of them and do some tests. They were quite nasty things, chemically speaking. You can never be sure how these things will react in the body.”

“It’s the reason for clinical trials,” John said. “Anyway, there’s one thing that I don’t fully understand.”

“What’s that?” asked Gerry.

“Why did Jackson shift the blame to himself in that way?”

“To understand that, we have to go back to what happened after Louise’s death. We had our communications people dealing with the **aftermath**, as you know. In the end, they did a good job, and there was no **fallout** for us. The company that produces the placebo didn’t **fare** so well, though. Because of our strategy, the focus shifted to them. Their market value suffered a lot as a result. Once the media connected the placebo to what happened, their share price fell 30% in a couple of days. In the weeks after, it dropped another 15%. They called us and, well, let’s say they weren’t impressed. We felt responsible for what happened, so we worked with them on some ideas for **restoring** confidence.”

“And where does Jackson come into this?”

“We identified him as being useful. He could change the narrative... change the emphasis. So we arranged a meeting and called him in. He was a bit surprised at first. He had no idea about the things we were suggesting to him. Of course, by that stage we’d done our investigations very thoroughly. It was obvious that something had caused the reaction with Louise and what she had been given. And we found out from her friends about the dieting pills. We found out exactly what they were and where she had got them from. Some Chinese producer off the internet. There wasn’t much we could do with that information. These people are **untouchable**. It was Merman who suggested we use Jackson. He came up with the idea that we could shift the responsibility to him and that it would help to begin restoring confidence in the firm producing the placebo. The only problem then was **to get Jackson on board**.”

“I don’t suppose he was too keen?”

“He wasn’t. But we also did our research on him. If you know what you’re working with, it makes things easier. We estimated his price and we made him an offer. We could use him and we let him know it. Made him feel wanted.”

“It was as simple as that then?”

“I wouldn’t say it was simple. It took a bit of **arm bending**.”

“I can imagine,” John said, thinking about the **Mephistophelean** deal Susan had struck with him.

“Then, of course, there was the question of his career. What we wanted him to do would end his career as a doctor. The GMC **take a dim view of** the professional **misconduct** we wanted him to agree to. But this is where Merman came in. He arranged a few sessions with Jackson just to talk things over. Of course, he got to work on him immediately. Encouraged him to see the bigger picture. Helped him to see the opportunities ahead. While he was doing that, we worked with the placebo firm on a compensation package for Jackson.”

“Compensation package? So he was rewarded for...”

“For his **commitment**.”

“That’s one way of putting it. So what happened? How did you **persuade** him?”

“Merman did most of that. But he was also offered a **generous** package. As I said, the share price of the company fell by about 50%. In fact, as of yesterday, it was down 60%. So Jackson was offered shares in the company. Do you see the beauty of it? He was given an **incentive** to participate. Merman worked with him on his strategy for today and the result will be that the share price will climb once Jackson’s testimony is reported.”

“Are you sure about that?”

“As sure as we can be. It’s all about active management. We have our media contacts. That’s why it was important to not say too much today to the wrong people.”

“I see. But isn’t there something **distasteful** about all this to you, Gerry? Isn’t it **crossing a line**?”

“No. It’s just information management.”

“Haven’t you **compromised** Jackson?”

“The way we compromised you, you mean?”

“Well, there is a **pattern**, isn’t there?”

“Come on, John, we only make offers. We can’t **force** people to accept them.”

“And Merman? Who were those men?”

“Detectives. Come on, John, drink up, I’m hungry. Let’s go to Luigi’s and I’ll tell you all about Martin Merman’s **comeuppance**.”

When Libby found John and Gerry in Luigi’s, there was an ice bucket on the table, in which sat a bottle of Dom Perignon.

“Mum’s called me... told me what happened at the inquest. But I don’t suppose that’s a good enough reason for champagne in the middle of the day.”

“You’d be right,” Gerry said.

“Well, come on... **spill the beans**... what’s going on?”

“John’s formally accepted our job offer.”

“That’s great,” said Libby.

For the next hour, Luigi popped up several times to take away empty plates and return with full ones, until eventually they were onto the coffee. As it arrived, Gerry looked at his watch with a slightly panicked looking expression on his face.

“Listen, you two,” he said, “I’ll have to dash. I’ve got a train to catch in 20 minutes. Can you put the bill on your card, Libby, and I’ll sort it out with you later?” And with that, he was gone.

“What’re your plans for this afternoon?” Libby asked.

“Not much really. But I’ll have to give Leslie a quick call... let her know how things have gone this morning. I’ll be back in a moment.”

John left the restaurant and Libby watched him wandering slowly **back and forth** along the **pavement**, talking on the phone. After five minutes, he came back in.

“She must have been relieved,” said Libby. “Did you tell her you’d accepted the job?”

“Not yet,” said John.

“Well, Doctor Death, do you fancy coming to have a look at the flat? I’ve been putting the finishing touches to things this morning.”

“Why not,” John said. “Leslie won’t be back till late anyhow.”

The interior of the quayside flat was **aglow** with warm afternoon light. “Go into the kitchen and pour yourself a drink,” said Libby. “There’s a pinot grigio in the fridge. I’m just going to get changed.”

John took his jacket off and removed his tie, before walking over to the window. It was **high tide**, cormorants with **outspread** wings were drying themselves on the wooden **piers** and **staves**, and the river **sparkled** in the sunlight. He looked up and down the river and counted off the seven bridges, as the thought came to him that one day soon, he’d be leaving all this behind and starting a new life in London.

“You look lost in thought,” Libby said, coming out of the bedroom. “Are you thinking about the inquest?”

“No. About leaving all this behind.”

“We both know what this means, John. Have you discussed things with Leslie?”

“I will.”

“You can’t avoid it forever... now’s the moment of truth. How are you going to handle it?”

“What do you mean?”

“You know what I mean. You and Leslie. It’s not right, is it?”

“That I haven’t discussed things with her?”

“That as well. But what I mean is that you two are not right. I’ve seen the signs. Have you?”

“Of course,” John admitted.

“And?”

“Well, Libby, the truth is it’s **run its course**. Something’s gone.”

“When did all this begin?”

“You’re full of questions this afternoon, aren’t you?”

“They’re questions that need to be asked. What are you afraid of?”

“Isn’t that obvious?”

“It is. But you’ve got to be honest, John. Leslie deserves that. How did it get to this point?”

“There’s been no moment of sudden realisation. It’s just been a slow, **imperceptible** drift. Like an iceberg **calving** from a **glacier**, floating off into warmer seas. Then one day you notice it’s gone. Am I making sense?”

“Yes. Was it me? Was I the catalyst?”

“No, it started before that. Looking back on it, I’m sure.”

1. Decide if the statement is true (T), false (F), or the text does not say anything about it (D).

[check the answer]

1. Gerry called John to give him every single detail about the case so that John was fully T / F / D

prepared.

2. The man who overdosed on heroin could have thwarted Gerry's Ceftoporzan development plans. **T / F / D**

3. Inside the courtroom, John was highly strung and found it difficult to calm down. **T / F / D**

4. Throughout the case, the press focused their attention mainly on John. **T / F / D**

5. Dr Jackson's testimony took most of the people present by surprise. **T / F / D**

6. Officially, the cause of Ms Proudlock's death couldn't be accounted for. **T / F / D**

7. Dr Jackson's twisted testimony had been devised to save his career as well as help Gerry and his team. **T / F / D**

2. Choose the correct antonym for each word.

[check the answer]

1. dull → lively, tedious, avaricious

2. gravitas → solemnity, triviality, dignity

3. in-depth → meticulous, thorough, superficial

4. generous → altruistic, hospitable, stingy

5. imperceptible → conspicuous, indiscernible, impalpable

6. benevolent → compassionate, spiteful, kind-hearted

3. Fill in the table.

[check the answer]

noun	verb	adjective
	to impress	
		participatory
withdrawal		
	to sustain	
		suspicious
shortage		

4. Use the words from the box in the correct form to complete the sentences.

[check the answer]

dull **sober** **in-depth** **adverse** **depart** **aftermath** **comeuppance**

1. No sooner had my daughter ..... than I shed a few tears, hoping she'd be back soon.
2. Their marriage fell apart in the ..... of their daughter's death.
3. I want a complete rundown of this accident and an ..... analysis of its causes for tomorrow.

4. I’m glad he finally got his ..... for what he'd done to this vulnerable woman.
5. It was the ..... reaction to the drug that caused her death, not inebriation.
6. John was far from..... – he was staggering and calling me names all the way home.
7. ‘Have I missed something interesting?’ ‘No, the first half of the match was rather ..... .’

CHAPTER 33

AUTUMN PASSED SLOWLY for John, sandwiched as it seemed to be between his past and future. He had come to an agreement with Leslie **whereby** he was still living at home, each of them coping in their own way with the air of **disquiet** that by now infected the house. As the weeks went by, there was a steady succession of goodbyes for John, and his thoughts turned more and more to the move south. When, in November, Kim told him that a friend of hers was going to Thailand for six months and John could stay in his flat, he felt the time was right to say his **dolorous** farewells to Leslie and move out.

After two nights in the new flat, Libby called and invited him round for dinner.

"How are you, John?" she asked, as he followed her into the kitchen and sat down.

"Relieved," he said, "and looking forward to the move to London."

"That's good to hear. Have you spoken to Leslie since you left?"

"It's only been two days."

"Well, you know..."

"We agreed to cut contact for a while. It seemed the best way to do it. Stop us being **dragged back** into the past," John said, getting up and going to look out of the window. "I remember sitting on that balcony in the sunshine. And now the Christmas lights are going on across the city. **Time marches on**, doesn't it..."

As they were sitting drinking green tea after the meal, Libby turned to the subject of the past few months. "Have you stopped taking the sleeping tablets?"

“After the inquest. I just felt I didn’t need them. One or two nights were hard work, but I **got there in the end**. ”

“You haven’t had any dreams about Louise since?”

“No, I’m relieved to say. The mind works in mysterious ways, doesn’t it...”

“I spoke to Leslie,” Libby said, taking him by surprise.

“What, you called her?”

“She called me, actually, a couple of weeks ago.”

“She didn’t say anything. What... you know... did you talk about?”

“She asked me how my studies were going, how the flat was, that kind of thing. But I could feel it wasn’t the main reason for her calling.”

“And?”

“She wanted to know about you.”

“Me?”

“Yes. It took her a while to **get round to** it, but she wanted to know if you and me **were up to no good**.”

“What did you say?”

“Don’t look so worried. I denied it. She told me that she’d thought things through, trying to work out what had happened, what had caused you to change. I **felt so sorry for** her, John. And what she came up with was that everything had seemed okay until the trip to France. I appear, and then...”

“The timing is more or less right, I suppose. But Louise’s death changed everything. She must have thought about that.”

“I suppose she did. But she said what really did it for her was that night I came to stay and she was awake upstairs listening to us while we were in the garden. I told her we were **stoned**.”

“You didn’t, did you?”

“Well, it’s better her knowing about that than...”

“You’re probably right. Where did you leave it?”

“She seemed to believe me. **You’re in the clear**. At least until she unmasks you as a drug addict at the divorce hearing,” Libby said with a **wry** smile.

“Don’t joke about it, Libby.”

Libby **produced** a bottle of grappa she’d got from the airport shop in Venice and poured two glasses, and they started to talk about London, until just before midnight, when Libby gave a big yawn. “I think I’ll **call it a night**,” she said.

“Right, I’ll ring a cab.”

“Just stay here. The sofa **folds out**. You don’t have anywhere to be in the morning, do you?”

“No.”

“Well, that’s **settled** then,” Libby said, and began unfolding the sofa.

With the mixture of alcohol and tiredness, John fell asleep the moment his head hit the pillow. In the middle of the night, though, he woke up with a dry mouth. For a few moments, he lay still, before opening his eyes. As they began to adjust to the darkness, he suddenly became aware of someone sitting at the kitchen table.

“Leslie?” he asked **disoriented**.

“It’s me,” Libby said in a quiet voice.

“What are you doing?”

“I had a dream about Louise. She was in a coffin, looking up at me with pleading eyes. It must have been because we were talking about her. I’m afraid to go back to sleep.”

CHAPTER 34

WHEN JOHN ARRIVED at his new, London flat on Boxing Day, there was a bottle standing on the **counter** in the kitchen with a note attached.

> *John, downstairs (number 18) you have a neighbour who's also a fellow new boy in London and Castle and Bird – Simon Jackson. He moved in about a week ago. As you'll see, the bottle is a Longmorn 1992, **single malt**. I know Jackson's **on his tod**, so perhaps you could take it round and break the ice a bit.*
>
> *Enjoy, Gerry*

Just after 11 a.m. the following day, John called Simon Jackson.

"Gerry said you might ring," Simon said.

"He suggested **we get together**, which I think is a good idea, especially as he's left a decent bottle of whisky for the occasion."

At 6 o' clock that evening, John knocked on the door of flat 18 and Simon Jackson opened it with a welcoming smile.

"Come in, John," he said warmly, offering his hand, before leading him into the living room.

"It's almost identical to my place. Except you've made more of an effort," John said, looking at the food laid out on the table.

"Well, when you said you had a decent bottle of whisky, I thought I'd better be prepared. I'll go and get a couple of glasses."

“We didn’t exactly **hit it off** before, did we?” Simon said when he returned from the kitchen.

“Well, it was under very **trying circumstances**,” John said, opening the bottle and pouring two good measures. They both **swirled** the whisky round the glass and took in its aroma.

“Here’s to new beginnings,” John said, and they raised their glasses and each took a sip of the whisky.

“Gerry’s done a good job there,” said Simon. “Listen, sit down and help yourself to food, and I’ll go and put some music on.”

John took a couple of olives from a bowl and popped them into his mouth, as Simon pressed play on the CD player, and they soon found themselves **reminiscing** about Newcastle.

“It’s funny, isn’t it,” Simon said after a while, “here we are, having just moved to what’s probably the most exciting city in the world, and we can’t stop talking about Newcastle.”

John laughed. “If someone had said to me this time last year that I’d be here, I would have said they were **barmy**.”

“If you don’t mind me asking,” Simon said, his curiosity stirred by what he had just heard, “how did you end up here?”

“It’s complicated. And I’m not really sure I understand it myself. Gerry offered me the job a while ago. In the spring. He told me he needed someone and did the big sell on me, but I wasn’t really interested. My life was in Newcastle. Quite settled. But he asked me to think it over, so I agreed.”

“There was no big plan then?”

“Absolutely not,” John said. “Has it been much of an **upheaval** for you?”

“Not really. You know how the job offer came about, I suppose?”

“More or less.”

“They did the big sell on me too. But to be honest, I needed a change. Has it been an upheaval for you?”

“I’ve left a wife behind. Well, we’re in the process of separating...”

“I’m sorry to hear that.”

“The hardest part’s behind us now. At least I think it is.”

“Pour another one, and I’ll change the CD,” Simon said, as the music ended.

Talk turned to the subject of Castle and Bird and what they’d be doing there.

“Do you ever think you’ll go back to being a doctor?” Simon asked after a while.

“I doubt it. Once you step away from it, it’s not so easy to go back.”

“I don’t have that option.”

“No. I heard about the GMC enquiry. Were you expecting the worst?”

“Yes. And in a strange sort of way, I welcomed it.”

“Why’s that?” John asked, **emboldened** by the whisky.

“After what happened to Louise. Did Gerry tell you about how we arrived at the official version of events?”

“He explained a few things, yes. I have to say I’m surprised you agreed to do what you did.”

“They came up with the idea. ”

“From what Gerry said, I guessed as much. But, it was a hell of a thing to do.”

“They made me a good offer to do it,” Simon said, standing up and walking over to the window. John watched him, looking out across the lights of the London skyline. Presently, he turned round.

“It was because of Louise. I haven’t told that to anyone. But that’s what it was.”

“Do you want to talk about it?”

“Not really. It’s still... you know...”

John got up and joined him at the window. “Quite a view,” he said. “Did you have something similar in Newcastle?”

“No. I was renting an end terrace **overlooking** the football ground.”

“I haven’t seen one of these in years,” John said, picking an antique **hourglass** up from the **windowsill** and turning it over.

“It was my grandfather’s. When I was a child, he would turn it over and we would sit and watch it together. The neck through which the sand runs is so narrow, you see, that at first the level doesn’t change. Watch... it appears that the sand only runs out near the end. Until that moment, it’s not worth thinking about. And then suddenly,” Simon said, as the final **grains** fell, “there’s no more time.”

John picked up the hourglass and turned it over again. “If only we could do that with life... Turn it over and start again...”

1. Match the parts to create full sentences.

[check the answer]

1. After the meal, Libby turned

2. She tried to work

3. What with the alcohol, John dozed

a. round to it and say what was on her mind.

b. to the darkness, he could make out someone at the back of the room.

c. to the subject of the past few months.

4. As his eyes adjusted	**d.** olives into his mouth.
5. It took her a while to get	**e.** off the moment his head hit the pillow.
6. He popped a couple of	**f.** out what had happened.

2. Choose the correct option.

[check the answer]

1. He had a great idea **of inviting / to invite** all his friends **round / up** for a party without asking me first.
2. Please **give / ring** the supervisor a call immediately after he **arrives / will arrive**.
3. It's time you **had your eyes tested / test your eyes**. Unless you want to end **over / up** as blind as a bat.
4. I don't think it will **cause / have** an impact on any of these **thugs / tugs**. They're oblivious **to / on** your efforts.
5. The teacher divided us **in / into** 4 groups and asked us to come **over / up** with as many idioms as possible.

3. Complete the sentences with the missing word.

[check the answer]

1. New regulations, **w_ _ _ _ _ _** all employees will be entitled to one day off during the week, should come into full force in June.

2. He went completely **b**_ _ _ _ and wanted to throttle the officer!
3. I bet you he was **s**_ _ _ _ _ , not drunk. You heard how he was giggling!
4. Under no **c**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ must you leave the house at night, understood? If you should need anything, give me a call.
5. ‘Anyone have any idea where my cat is?’ ‘It’s on the **w**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , basking in the sun.’
6. This **h**_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ was found in the Middle East and it symbolises the brevity of life.

4. Correct spelling mistakes where necessary.

[check the answer]

1. We pulled the rope with all our strenght but the opposing team won anyway. .....
2. If I hadn’t spotted that advertisment then, I wouldn’t be working here now. .....
3. He died from a brain haemorrage following the accident. .....
4. To my embarassment, everyone saw my pink knickers as I bent down to pick up a key. .....
5. I am a member of this committee myself and so I cannot imagine it ever being disbanded. .....

5. Choose the correct answer a, b, c or d.

[check the answer]

1. We met at Jane's party last year and we ..... it off straightaway. We've been friends ever since.

a. struck **b.** hit **c.** took **d.** made

2. When I looked at the gang of youths, I knew they were up to no ..... .

a. nice **b.** better **c.** good **d.** deed

3. Why don't you go and talk to Jane? She's been sitting there on her ..... for some time.

a. tod **b.** lot **c.** dot **d.** pot

4. We had a chat the other day and I explained everything to her. You're in the ..... now.

a. clean **b.** clear **c.** fine **d.** good

5. I'm really knackered, guys. I think I'm gonna ..... it a night and hit the sack.

a. make **b.** name **c.** give **d.** call

6. We were just chewing the fat and reminiscing ..... our childhood, a half-empty wine bottle smiling at us from the table.

a. of **b.** about **c.** on **d.** upon

ODPOWIEDZI

Chapter 1 & 2

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. F, 2. T, 3. D, 4. F (GCS 13),
5. D (‘possible fracture’), 6. F, 7. T

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. deterioration, 2. confirmation,
3. alarm, 4. registrars,
5. adversity, 6. toughening,
7. overdose

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. stretcher, 2. overdose,
3. blood pressure, 4. hushed,
5. lungs, 6. paramedic

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. in, 2. of,
3. in, 4. to,
5. to / of, 6. over,
7. on, 8. into / to,
9. from, 10. on

Chapter 3 & 4

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. b, 2. a, 3. a, 4. b,
5. b, 6. b, 7. b

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. d, 2. a, 3. b,
4. e, 5. f, 6. c

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. buzz, 2. fret,
3. falcons, 4. immaculate,
5. turrets, 6. thorough

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. seated, 2. hurriedly,
3. Therein, 4. colours,
5. bundle, 6. inconvenience

5.

[back to the exercise]

b, 2. c, 3. a,
4. f, 5. d, 6. e

Chapter 5 & 6

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. c, 2. e, 3. a,
4. b, 5. d, 6. f

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. **holey**: perforated, pierced; 2. **blazing** (hot): boiling, scorching; 3. **shimmer**: glimmer, glow, sparkle; 4. **sashay**: swagger, strut; 5. **work-shy**: indolent, idle; 6. **mould**: fungus, mildew; 7. **absorbed**: immersed, engrossed

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. c, 2. a, 3. c,
4. d, 5. a, 6. b, 7. b

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. If anyone gets wind of it; 2. jump on the bandwagon; 3. must you / are you to / should you own up;
4. I hadn’t participated in this competition;
5. you keep schtum about it;
6. haven’t had our leaking roof repaired

5.

[back to the exercise]

1. exhausting → exhaustive,
2. getting on → getting on FOR,
3. CORRECT,

4. CORRECT,
5. prides himself in → prides himself on,
6. My father, whose house was flooded last week, wants to have his house done up,
7. I've brought you here →I bring / I'm bringing you here

Chapter 7 & 8

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. F, 2. D, 3. T, 4. D,
5. T, 6. F, 7. T

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. f, 2. a, 3. d,
4. e, 5. b, 6. c

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. plume, 2. silhouette,
3. drowsy, 4. al fresco

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. I went to see him in the hospital, but he’d been discharged.
2. Did he sign / Has he signed the confidentiality agreement?
3. He was still having a fair bit of trouble breathing.
4. Everything’s taken care of, don’t worry.
5. He’s got an important call to make. Besides, he can never sit still when he’s on the phone.
6. We had / drank a couple of / a few drinks by the pool and I nodded / dozed off.
7. Have you never thought of grtting out?
8. Come on, live a little! It won't do you any harm!
9. For a couple of minutes he made a pretence of reading.

5.

[back to the exercise]

1. drowsy, 2. rustle,
3. cast off, 4. discharge,
5. Groggy, 6. inflatable

Chapter 9

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. a, 2. b, 3. a,

4. c, 5. a

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. try your hand at / have a go at;
2. mind went blank;
3. the coast is clear;
4. Give it a go;
5. give me a hand;
6. take centre stage

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. lust – pożądanie (nieczystość);
2. gluttony – obżarstwo / łakomstwo;
3. greed – chciwość;
4. sloth – lenistwo;
5. wrath – gniew;
6. envy – zazdrość;
7. pride – pycha

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. booze, 2. agreeable,

3. giggling, 4. exposed,
5. blasphemy, 6. forked

Chapter 10 & 11

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. e, 2. f, 3. a,
4. b, 5. c, 6. d

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. aged, 2. pub brawl,
3. fractured, 4. breathing,
5. wounds, 6. concussion,
7. GCS, 8. BP,
9. pulse, 10. Sats

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. sluggish, 2. fatigued,
3. appetite, 4. lost,
5. diarrhoea, 6. vomited

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. a, 2. b, 3. c,
4. c, 5. a, 6. d, 7. b

Chapter 12 & 13

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. T, 2. T, 3. D,
4. T, 5. T, 6. F

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. The best case scenario is (that) he'll walk with crutches.
2. time was I surprised that she
3. think much of the novel.
4. did you get hold of these documents?
5. you can pull it off?
6. If you hadn't spotted the tick under my armpit, I could have got sick.

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. walking, 2. to inform,
3. passing, 4. to find,
5. liking, 6. to advise,
7. to be working, 8. being

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. discrepancy, 2. sizeable,
3. fastidious, 4. squalid,
5. reverie, 6. folks

Chapter 14

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. a, 2. b, 3. c,
4. a, 5. a, 6. b

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. f, 2. b, 3. a, 4. c,
5. d, 6. e, 7. g

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. tense, 2. circumspect,
3. favour, 4. evasive,
5. en route, 6. adamant,
7. hampered, 8. swollen,
9. agitated, 10. curt

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. over, 2. to, 3. off,
4. in, 5. of, 6. with, 7. at

Chapter 15 & 16

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. F, 2. T, 3. F,
4. F, 5. D, 6. F

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. f, 2. g, 3. a, 4. e,
5. b, 6. d, 7. c

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. I expect you’re wondering what we think of you after your dalliance / flirtation with Libby?
2. The waiter cleared the plates away, and ten minutes later brought the main courses.
3. Would you like to make another appointment?
4. You can’t hide from what’s happened, and what might happen.
5. There’s some sleeping tablets in the (medicine) cabinet, could you bring me one?
6. The blood test results were due today, but there has been a delay.
7. And what happens when the regulators get wind of this?
8. Whatever it is that you have in mind, I can't do it.

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. d, 2. b, 3. g, 4. e,
5. f, 6. a, 7. c, 8. h

Chapter 17 & 18

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. a, 2. b, 3. a, 4. a,
5. b, 6. b, 7. b

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. elusive, 2. dormant,
3. chirp, 4. callous,
5. amicable, 6. mingle,
7. vexed

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. ✓,
2. it’s about high time → it’s high time OR it’s about time,
3. ✓,
4. in three weeks **of** time → in three weeks’ time,
5. **If** had it not been → Had it not been,
6. emerged **himself** from → emerged from

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. a, 2. c, 3. b,

4. a, 5. d, 6. a

Chapter 19 & 20

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. e, 2. f, 3. d, 4. c,

5. a, 6. b, 7. g

2.

[back to the exercise]

noun	**verb**	**adjective**
annoyance	to annoy	**annoying**, annoyed
ability	**to enable**	able, unable
desire	to desire	desirable, undesirable
acquaintance	to acquaint	**acquainted**
temptation	**to tempt**	tempting, tempted
allegation	to allege	alleged
amusement	to amuse	**amusing**, amused

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. Sleeveless, 2. tempt,
3. wobbly, 4. hoots,
5. glow, 6. savoury,
7. ambled, 8. galore

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. pleased, 2. loitering,
3. touches, 4. Fetch,
5. wobbly, 6. tempting,
7. array

Chapter 21 & 22

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. T, 2. T, 3. T, 4. D,
5. F, 6. T, 7. D

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. c, 2. b, 3. a,
4. a, 5. d, 6. c

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. disillusioned, 2. bash,
3. imposing, 4. contributed,
5. dreadful, 6. earshot

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. ramshackle → dilapidated, decrepit
2. imposing → grand, impressive
3. strange → odd, weird, bizarre
4. imitate → emulate, impersonate
5. bluntly → frankly, candidly
6. mock → bogus, phony, sham

5.

[back to the exercise]

1. steamy, 2. hearings,
3. bearing, 4. insubordination,
5. discontented, 6. adhesive

Chapter 23 & 24

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. f, 2. e, 3. d,
4. b, 5. a, 6. c

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. look like death warmed up,
2. preying on my mind,
3. state,
4. had her wits about her,
5. charge,
6. makes my skin crawl

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. wouldn’t have managed to rescue him without the aid of that / managed to rescue him with the aid of that;
2. in the dark about;
3. being not enough / too few seats; 4. have had a stab at solving;

5. was pelted with tomatoes;

6 talked her out of marrying / talked her into not marrying;

7. may have escaped

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. distinct, 2. ominous,

3. temptation, 4. listless,

5. fled, 6. crow, 7. careless

Chapter 25 & 26

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. Ten minutes later, they were admiring the view of the quayside.
2. Do you fancy (listening to) a bit of Coldplay?
3. I'm sorry, I should have called, but we got talking and time just flew by.
4. What is it about / the matter? Couldn't we have arranged it / sorted it out over the phone?
5. It was well past midnight when John arrived home.
6. After seeing Leslie's bedside light / lamp go off, he came back into the bedroom and crept into bed.

7. Get in touch with your friend, the one who got us the medical record, and ask him to get us something on Smythe.

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. knees, 2. uptake,
3. nippy, 4. stalking,
5. bargain, 6. wade,
7. smashing, 8. retreat,
9. supress, 10. al fresco

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. will have been,
2. it not been for,
3. a chance of,
4. had your hair cut,
5. No sooner,
6. cap it all / make matters worse

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. If I were you, I wouldn’t have gone to that party. It was a waste of time.

2. She told me that Will had cheated on her, which really surprised me.
3. Fancy seeing you here, my dear friend! The last time I saw you was two years ago, wasn't it?
4. To be honest, I don't think Mary is capable of learning this poem by heart. It's far too long.
5. Having watched this film at least three times, I have no intention of watching it again.

Chapter 27 & 28

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. T, 2. F, 3. T,
4. D, 5. T, 6. F

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. e, 2. d, 3. f,
4. c, 5. b, 6. a

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. a, 2. c, 3. a,

4. b, 5. a, 6. d

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. c, 2. b, 3. a,
4. e, 5. f, 6. d

5.

[back to the exercise]

1. image, 2. thoughts,
3. stitch, 4. up, 5. under

Chapter 29 & 30

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. a, 2. b, 3. a, 4. c, 5. a

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. fade, 2. tight,
3. farewell, 4. intricate,
5. sensuous, 6. wavelength

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. rotten, 2. vanished,
3. transfixed, 4. growling,
5. take-off, 6. mutual

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. count me in,
2. kept it to yourself,
3. on my way,
4. in due course,
5. out of the blue,
6. show you around

5.

[back to the exercise]

1. hadn't **have** to learn → hadn't **had** to learn,
2. **Despite of** his tiredness → Despite his / In spite of his tiredness,
3. **less** cars → **fewer** cars,
4. CORRECT,
5. from → of,

6. **you can** learn → **can you** learn

Chapter 31 & 32

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. F, 2. F, 3. T, 4. D,
5. T, 6. T, 7. F

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. lively, 2. triviality,
3. superficial, 4. stingy,
5. conspicuous, 6. spiteful

3.

[back to the exercise]

noun	verb	adjective
impression	**to impress**	impressive / impressionable / impressed
participation, participant	to participate	**participatory**

withdrawal	to withdraw	withdrawn
sustainability	**to sustain**	sustainable
suspect, suspicion	to suspect	**suspicious / suspect**
shortage	to shorten	short

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. departed, 2. aftermath,
3. in-depth, 4. comeuppance,
5. adverse, 6. sober, 7. dull

Chapter 33 & 34

1.

[back to the exercise]

1. c, 2. f, 3. e,
4. b, 5. a, 6. d

2.

[back to the exercise]

1. of inviting / round,
2. give / arrives,

3. had your eyes tested / up,
4. have / thugs / to,
5. into / up

3.

[back to the exercise]

1. whereby, 2. barmy,
3. stoned, 4. circumstances,
5. windowsill, 6. hourglass

4.

[back to the exercise]

1. strenght → strength,
2. advertisment → advertisement,
3. haemorrage → haemorrhage (AmE: hemorrhage),
4. embarassment → embarrassment, 5. CORRECT,
6. acommodation → accommodation

5.

[back to the exercise]

1. b, 2. c, 3. a,
4. b, 5. d, 6. b

Glossary

Chapter 1

hushed – ściszony

flustered – zdenerwowany

adverse reaction – niepożądana reakcja

to retreat – wycofywać się

rattle – terkot

to step out – wychodzić

to wander – przechadzać się

frantic – gorączkowy

in black and white – czarno na białym

insured – ubezpieczony

Chapter 2

A&E – ostry dyżur

to slide open – rozsuwać się

paramedic – sanitariusz

to rush in – wbiegać

to wheel – pchać

stretcher – nosze

drip – kroplówka

to run over – przejechać

fracture – złamanie

tibia – piszczel

bruising – stłuczenie

at the scene – na miejscu (zdarzenia)

to take sb through – zabrać kogoś do

to deteriorate – pogarszać się

alarming – niepokojący

to fetch – pójść po

(to go into)

cardiac arrest – zatrzymanie akcji serca

to take over – przejmować

shocking – defibrylacja

to stand back – odsunąć się

to apply – aplikować

to call it – stwierdzić zgon

to put an arm around – obejmować

to dawn on sb – docierać do kogoś

registrar – starszy lekarz

tough – tu: ciężka sprawa

a couple of – kilka

to run through – przeglądać

ahead – przed nami

the Indian – restauracja indyjska

to be off to – wybierać się dokądś

fair enough – w porządku

plonk – wino

to pop (one's head) **in** – zaglądać

overdose – przedawkowanie

Chapter 3

hardwood floor – parkiet

wingtip brogues – buty męskie z ażurowym zdobieniem

reassuring – dodający otuchy

plush – luksusowy, pluszowy

to cast – rzucać (np. spojrzenie)

post – posada, stanowisko

buzz – gwar, szum

to draw – przyciągać

immaculately – nienagannie

charcoal – ciemnografitowy

casually – zwyczajnie

I'll have it to you – doręczę

seated – siedzący

turret – wieżyczka

falcon – sokół

to be familiar with – znać

puzzled – zdziwiony

therein – w tym

Friday week – w piątek za tydzień

to inconvenience – sprawiać kłopot

just across – po drugiej stronie, tuż za

to fret – martwić się, trwożyć się

Any good? – Nadaje się? I jak?

solid – solidny, porządny

to show one's true colours – pokazać prawdziwe oblicze

communicator – komunikatywny człowiek

Chapter 4

deputy – zastępca

parking space – miejsce parkingowe

all but – wszystko poza..., ani trochę

hurriedly – pospiesznie

to get out of – wydostać się z, opuścić

to do just as well – być równie dobrym, nadać się

vermilion – czerwonawy

to frame – otaczać

(in the) **grand scheme of things** – w szerszej perspektywie

to flatter – schlebiać

buff – żółtawy, płowy

kipper – wędzony śledź

proper – porządny

thorough – szczegółowy

stage – faza, etap

trial – próba, badanie

to draw to a close – zmierzać ku końcowi

to dash – lecieć, uciekać

to head for – zmierzać ku

hang on – zaczekaj

to indicate – wskazywać

combination lock – zamek na kod

clasp – klamra, zatrzask

to resist – powstrzymywać się

peek – zerknięcie, rzut oka

bundle – plik

Chapter 5

(to be) short of funds – stać krucho z kasą

to end up (doing sth) – skończyć (gdzieś, jakoś)

fleapit – obskurny

mould – pleśń

to crawl – pełznąć

to have sth in common (with) – mieć coś wspólnego z

to sort out – rozwiązać (problem)

to do shifts – pracować na zmiany

to leer – spoglądać pożądliwie

to turn into – zmieniać w

work-shy – leniwy

to fancy – mieć ochotę na

to take one's mind off things – zrelaksować się

catch – haczyk

scheming – intrygi

to keep schtum – trzymać gębę na kłódkę

Chapter 6

cross-legged – ze skrzyżowanymi nogami

holey – dziurawy

to have one's back against sth – opierać się o

boundary – granica

pitch – boisko

blazing – palący

to mow – kosić

to shimmer – lśnić

haze – mgiełka

to sashay – chodzić dumnie, pewnie

to craft – przygotować, zrobić

to speed up – przyspieszać

perceptibly – zauważalnie

to refer to – nawiązywać do

suspension – zawieszenie

offence – wykroczenie

to light up – podpalić

then – zatem, więc

to creep over sb – ogarniać kogoś (uczucie)

to lounge (back) – usadowić się

absorbed (in) – pochłonięty

fine – wyborny

eventually – wreszcie

to ease – przesunąć się powoli

to entertain – zabawiać

excuse – wymówka

to get wind of sth – dowiedzieć się, zwąchać coś

to blow a kiss – przesłać całusa

batsman – zawodnik wybijający piłkę (krykiet)

lusty – silny, mocny

to go with a swing – udać się, świetnie pójść

Chapter 7

to pull up – zatrzymać się

lot – grupa ludzi

hillside – zbocze, stok

plume – smuga (dymu)

magnum – półtoralitrowa butelka alkoholu

Gallic – galijski, francuski

flourish – teatralny gest

continental – europejski, kontynentalny

tortuous – męczący, znojny

load – banda, grupa

folk – ludzie

approach – nadejście

cicada – cykada

scrub (grass) – trawy, zarośla

rustic – wiejski, rustykalny

al fresco – na zewnątrz, na powietrzu

to get out – wydostać się; tu: zmienić branżę

hangdog – winny, wisielczy

to cross one's mind – przyjść do głowy

to play the game – przestrzegać reguł

quota – limit

cryptically – zagadkowo

to bounce back – odbijać

blaring – trąbienie

to catch up – nadrabiać, nadganiać

to lounge – wylegiwać się

sun lounger – leżak

to trickle – sączyć się

to drop – upuszczać

to nod off – przysnąć

to rustle – szeleścić

flip-flops – klapki

silhouette – sylwetka

halo – aureola

groggily – na wpół przytomnie

travail – znój

libation – libacja

to follow suit – naśladować, robić to, co inni

perched (on) – usadowiony, umieszczony

ivory – kość słoniowa

lid – wieczko

to reveal – odkrywać

remedy – lekarstwo

partial to – mający słabość do

to live a little – zaszaleć

teasingly – przekornie, figlarnie

sarong – pareo

to arch – wyginać się

drowsy – senny

graceful – wdzięczny

to glide – sunąć

effortessly – bez wysiłku

to gaze – spoglądać

to hoist oneself – podnosić się

to measure out – odmierzać

mischievously – psotnie

to tower over – górować nad

to cast off – zrzucać

inflatable – nadmuchiwany

reptile – gad

bewitched – oczarowany

twinkling – lśniący

secluded – odosobniony

cove – zatoczka

have it your way – jak chcesz

edge – tu: ton głosu

to slip (under) – wsunąć

challenging – ambitny

to make a pretence of – udawać

to struggle – zmagać się

rejuvenating – ożywiający, odmładzający

reprise – powtórka

do I – tu: no chyba! ba!

timing – wyczucie (czasu)

to splash – chlapać, skrapiać

Chapter 8

to be about to do sth – mieć coś zrobić zaraz

dusty – zakurzony

track – ścieżka, droga

to sit still – usiedzieć

to discharge – wypisać za szpitala

to go round – odwiedzać

a fair bit – spory

portable – przenośny

oxygen tank – butla tlenowa

compensation package – pakiet odszkodowań

confidentiality agreement – umowa poufności

amicable – sympatyczny, przyjazny

to proceed – przechodzić do

relief – ulga

Chapter 9

fancy dress party – bal kostiumowy

lengthy – dłużący się

air – nastrój

to don – przywdziewać

to dress up – przebierać się

on the stroke of – co do minuty

to trail – wlec za sobą

forked – rozdwojony

to do sth proud – być chlubą, czynić dumnym

to ponder – zastanawiać się

to pop – odkorkować

shade – cień, w którym można się skryć

in anticipation – wyczekująco

to sidle (over to) – przysuwać się

to overhear – usłyszeć

to ape – naśladować, małpować

drawn-out – przeciągający się

affair – wydarzenie

to comprise – składać się z

booze – alkohol

flow – lać się, płynąć

fuelled – podsycany, napędzany

to near – zbliżać się do

to take centre stage – znaleźć się w centrum uwagi

expectantly – wyczekująco

to name – wymieniać

to dart (about eyes) – omiatać spojrzeniem

to assume – zakładać

to come up with – wymyślić, podać

to give sth a go – próbować

fortfeit – fant

to act out – odegrać

fearful – zaniepokojony

to get the ball rolling – zaczynać

remains – resztki

gluttony – obżarstwo

greed – chciwość

sloth – lenistwo

mind goes blank – mieć pustkę w głowie

to wiggle – kręcić, kołysać

clue – wskazówka

blasphemy – bluźnierstwo

lust – pożądanie

to be high – być na haju

to giggle – chichotać

to nip in – czmychnąć, wkraść się

the coast is clear – droga wolna

to adjust – dopasować (się)

exposed – odkryty

to race – pędzić, szaleć

to dare – odważyć się

to drip – ociekać

wickedness – podłość

to force – zmuszać (się)

to look away – odwracać wzrok

to place – umieszczać, kłaść

quite a night – co za wieczór

to give a hand – pomagać

to spoon – nakładać łyżką

curious – ciekawy

to try one's hand at – spróbować swoich sił w

agreeable – przyjemny

benefit – korzyść, pożytek

there's more to it than... – chodzi o coś więcej

to throw up – wymiotować

nutter – świr, czubek

to knife – dźgać, sztyletować

to narrow down – zawężać

bloke – facet

to be a bit of a... – być trochę...

duffer – matoł, cymbał

sharp – bystry

I should say so – no raczej

to strike sb – olśnić kogoś

in a way – poniekąd

to snort – parskać

to go a bit too far – przesadzać

pressing – pilny, naglący

Chapter 10

nagging – dokuczliwy, dręczący

to stand for – oznaczać

counter – anty-, kontr-

fraud – oszustwo

executive – dyrektor

to toy with (the idea of) – zastanawiać się, rozważać

to move sideways – odsuwać na boczny tor

Chapter 11

to melt away – topnieć

mirage – miraż

to sink – opadać, pogarszać się

uneventful – spokojny

gloom – mrok

drizzle – mżawka

all hands to the / on deck – wszyscy do pracy

outbreak – wybuch

severely – poważnie

dehydrated – odwodniony

source – źródło

diarrhoea – rozwolnienie

cramp – skurcz

in place – wdrożony,

so far – jak dotąd

to assess – oceniać

production line – taśma, linia produkcyjna

to deal with – uporać się

to regain – odzyskiwać

trauma – uraz

injury – obrażenie

superficial – powierzchowny

to fluctuate – wahać się, zmieniać

shift – zmiana (w pracy)

joy – radość

enlightening – pouczający

to get up to – porabiać

by qualification – z wykształcenia

the worse for wear – pijany

askew – przekrzywiony, na bakier

term – semestr

things are hotting up – robi się gorąco

Chapter 12

lively – szampański, zwariowany

debauched – rozpustny, psotny

to be itching (to do sth) – mieć ochotę coś zrobić

to get hold of – zdobyć

to spice things up – uatrakcyjnić, dodać pikanterii

to put sb up to sth – zachęcać do czegoś

now and again – od czasu do czasu

revealing look – wymowne spojrzenie

reverie – rozmyślanie, zaduma

folks – pot. starzy, rodzice

Chapter 13

smoothly – gładko

to breathe life into – tchnąć życie

sizeable – znaczny, duży

to relish – rozkoszować się

Messiah – Mesjasz

to spread the word – głosić, rozgłaszać, rozpowiadać

disciple – uczeń, apostoł

by any chance – przypadkiem

packaging – opakowanie

critical – ważny, istotny

to come together – układać się

in time for – na czas, żeby zdążyć

coup – mistrzowskie posunięcie

to pull sth off – dokonać czegoś

exorbitant – wygórowany, zawrotny

fee – stawka

lightweight – przeciętny, mierny

to have one's eye on – mieć oko na

valuable – cenny

link – tu: kontakt

to get the message out there – rozpowszechniać, upubliczniać

to downplay – pomniejszać

efficacy – skuteczność

steady – ciągły, nieprzerwany

outline – zarys

to bear – nosić

pearls of wisdom – mądrości

straight face – kamienna / poważna twarz

to go a long way – zadziałać, pomóc

to soften – łagodzić

blow – cios

capacity – pojemność, wydajność

strictly – dokładnie

(in) the best case scenario – w najlepszym wypadku

Chapter 14

to carry out – przeprowadzać

grounds – teren

a fair bit – sporo

to drop round – wpadać, odwiedzać

suite – pokój, sala

so far – jak dotąd

examination – badanie

form – formularz

jittery – podenerwowany

to straighten sb's head (out) – uspokoić kogoś, pomóc się opanować

leg – etap

to keep an eye on – mieć oko na

agitated – poruszony

questionnaire – formularz

watchful – czujny

trialist – osoba badana

lie-down – odpoczynek

queasiness – mdłości

to attend to sth – załatwiać coś

visibly – widocznie

to confess – wyznać

in a bad way – w kiepskim stanie

to be better off – mieć się lepiej

to be on duty – mieć dyżur

to play havoc with – psuć, niweczyć, wprowadzać zamęt

to handle sth – zająć się czymś, rozegrać coś

measure – krok, środek

to work out – wykombinować

to fiddle with – bawić się czymś

sharpish – natychmiast

cock-up – błąd; wtopa

cubicle – część sali oddzielona zasłoną

to fill sb in (on) – powiadomić o, przekazać informacje

slurred – niewyraźny

to hamper – utrudniać

swollen – spuchnięty

eyelid – powieka

to drop – opadać

to puff up – puchnąć

fiery – ognisty

speckle – plamka

temple – skroń

earlobe – płatek ucha

to voice – wyrażać

to get sth right – nie popełnić błędu

to comprehend – rozumieć

vagueness – brak precyzji; niepewność

to hover – tu: pobrzmiewać

to be quick about sth – (po)spieszyć się z czymś

to stick to sth – trzymać się

for the time being – póki co, na razie

to pan out – potoczyć się

attempt – próba

ICU (intensive care unit) – oddział intensywnej terapii

touch and go – niepewny

to go through the roof – skoczyć gwałtownie w górę

circumspect – ostrożny

to hold back on sth – ukrywać coś

to pace – chodzić nerwowo

tense – napięty

hestitation – wahanie

to ebb away – ulatniać się

upset – zmartwiony

(to be) off – wyłączony

autopsy – autopsja

in sb’s interest – w czyimś interesie

mid-afternoon – od godz. 14 do 16

adamant – przekonany, stanowczy

that’s to be expected – tego należy się spodziewać

to crack – załamać się

you can never tell – nigdy nie wiadomo

blood test – badanie krwi

to determine – określać, ustalać

to contain – zawierać

sample – próbka

cross a bridge when you come to it – nie martw się na zapas

it won’t come to that – nie dojdzie do tego

to switch – zamieniać, podmieniać

desperate times call for desperate measures – trudne okoliczności wymagają desperackich rozwiązań

to bear up – trzymać się, dawać radę

likelihood – prawdopodobieństwo

to sniff around – węszyć

linked – powiązany

to keep a lid on – trzymać w tajemnicy

to mould – kształtować, rzeźbić

en route – w drodze

prone to – skłonny do

outburst – wybuch

to lay the groundwork – kłaść podwaliny

to put sth on hold – wstrzymywać

precautionary – zapobiegawczy

publicity blackout – cisza / blokada medialna

to get on with – radzić sobie z

to get sb out of the way – pozbyć się kogoś

to make to do sth – zamierzać coś zrobić

to decline – odmawiać

briefly – krótko

to get to sb – trapić, zaboleć

critical – ważny

to gnaw away at sb – gryźć kogoś, trapić

brewing – tu: ciążący, niewygodny

to chime – dzwonić

to mull over – rozmyślać, rozważać

insurer – ubezpieczyciel

to pop out – wyskoczyć

shattered – wykończony, zmęczony

come on! – przestań!

to come down to – sprowadzać się do

high and mighty – zarozumiały, patetyczny

whiter than white – świętszy od papieża

to be coming from – chodzić komuś o coś, sugerować

to have sth to do with – mieć coś wspólnego z / do czynienia z

to get out – wyjść na jaw

stony – kamienny

tersely – krótko, zwięźle, oschle

evasively – wymijająco

to run over sth – obgadywać coś, relacjonować

to flop (onto) – padać na

ruptured disc – dyskopatia, wypadnięcie dysku

duvet – kołdra

adrift – unoszący się

headlight – przednie światła

Chapter 15

scoliotic – ze skoliozą

focus session – konsultacja

to bend forward – pochylać się

to take hold of – łapać

to make an appointment – umawiać się na wizytę

no charge – gratis, bez opłaty

Chapter 16

brusque – opryskliwy

to put sth behind – zapominać o czymś

to fall out over – pokłócić się o

easier said than done – łatwiej powiedzieć niż zrobić

to cover oneself in glory – okryć się chwałą

hacked off – wkurzony

dalliance – flirt, zaloty

for what it's worth – jeżeli ma to jakieś znaczenie

to preach – wpajać

magnanimous – wielkoduszny, wspaniałomyślny

to thaw – tajać, ocieplać się

well-off – zamożny

scholarship – stypendium

fact of life – smutna rzeczywistość

antipasti – przystawki

just about – prawie

post mortem – sekcja zwłok

delay – opóźnienie

anxiously – z niepokojem

to be short-handed – mieć za mało personelu

could do without – móc się obejść bez...

could do with – przydałby się (komuś) ...

to get away with – ujść komuś na sucho

to square with – godzić z

wider picture – szerszy kontekst

unknown – niewiadoma

inquest – dochodzenie

setback – komplikacja, problem

to bend the rules – naginać zasady

to press on – kontynuować

to get wind of sth – zwietrzyć coś

gatekeeper – strażnik

to sense – wyczuwać

hostility – wrogość

to clear away – sprzątać

to humour – pobłażać, ustępować, sprawiać przyjemność

staff – personel

in droves – tłumnie

hands-on – interaktywny, bezpośredni

to suit – pasować

the thick of things – sedno problemu

to make a difference – mieć znaczenie / wpływ

to put up with – znosić

to settle – urządzać się, osiedlać się

even so – nawet jeśli

persistent – uporczywy

nowhere to be seen – niewidoczny, poza zasięgiem wzroku

to descend on sb – tu: dopaść kogoś, zawładnąć kimś

mobile – aktywny

cabinet – szafka

to pocket – chować do kieszeni

expiry date – data ważności

depository – skład, magazyn

stray – zbłąkany, zagubiony

to squirm – wiercić się

Chapter 17

drowsy – senny

to overdo – przedobrzyć, przesadzać

civil – uprzejmy

cranky – marudny

ragged – niechlujny

rumour – pogłoska

remotely – trochę, odlegle

to sing from the same sheet – mówić jednym głosem

to fail to materialise – nie wydarzyć się

to trap – przytrzasnąć

wrapped – zawinięty

to exacerbate – pogarszać

deep-seated – głęboko zakorzeniony

makeshift – prowizoryczny

stitch – szew

care home – dom opieki

hairline fracture – złamanie zmęczeniowe

idle – bezczynny

to have a way of – mieć zwyczaj...

to sink one’s teeth into – uczepić się, dosł. zatapiać zęby w

curtly – szorstko

to beat about the bush – owijać w bawełnę

to stop dead in one’s tracks – stanąć jak wryty

to be off – wyruszać, wyjeżdżać

round – kolejka

penny for your thoughts – o czym tak rozmyślasz?

to come clean – wygadać się, powiedzieć prawdę

living dead – żywy trup

of late – ostatnio

to headhunt – rekrutować

initial – pierwotny, wstępny, początkowy

pint – pół litra (objętość)

intently – intensywnie

to hasten – przyspieszać

cheers – dzięki

to top up – dolewać

ordinarily – zwykle, normalnie

firmly – pewnie, z naciskiem

wreck – wrak

hiding place – kryjówka

to resolve – postanowić, zdecydować

to toss and turn – przewracać się w łóżku

to stir – poruszyć się

to keep sth at bay – trzymać na dystans

Chapter 18

ado – zamieszanie

share price – kurs akcji

to come across – napotykać

word has got out – rozniosło się

inevitable – nieuniknione

to put and two together – kojarzyć fakty, wyciągać wnioski

shareholder – udziałowiec

on sb's behalf – w czyimś imieniu

to pay off – przekupić kogoś

a lot at stake – wysoka stawka

conciliatory – pojednawczy

for all concerned – dla wszystkich zainteresowanych

to placate – łagodzić, uspokajać

Chapter 19

to spoil – psuć, marnować (się)

pleased – zadowolony

outcome – rezultat

to fit into – pasować do

annoying – denerwujący

not my cup of tea – nie w moim typie

clasp – klamra, zatrzask

securely – bezpiecznie

Chapter 20

to put the finishing touches (to) – doszlifowywać, dokończyć

to loiter – wałęsać się, kręcić się

to play – rozegrać

memory stick – pendrive

hoot – wybuch śmiechu, drwiący śmiech

starter – przystawka

to fetch – przynieść

glowing – lśniący, promienny

arc – łuk

to spark up – zapalić

wobbly – chwiejny

to be off to sleep – zasypiać

cursed – przeklęty

benighted – zamroczony, ciemny

sandwiched – wciśnięty pomiędzy

mirthful – wesoły, radosny

hazily – niewyraźnie, mgliście

to desire – pożądać

to be going on about sth – gadać o czymś, mieć coś na myśli

to tempt – kusić

novelty – nowość

perks – dodatki, bonusy

galore – w obfitości (używ. po rzecz.)

steaming – parujący

to leaf through – kartkować, przeglądać

to amble – iść powoli

to have a lie-in – wylegiwać się

thigh-skimming – sięgający ud

sleeveless – bez rękawów

to glance around – rozglądać się

array – szeroki wybór

savoury – słony, nie słodki

weed – zioło, marihuana

middle name – drugie imię; tu: cecha charakterystyczna

contritely – ze skruchą

Chapter 21

full steam ahead – cała naprzód, (ruszać) pełną parą

to hand in one's notice – wręczyć wypowiedzenie

hasty – pospieszny, pochopny

to shed light on – rzucić światło na, wyjaśnić

leave – urlop

to go for it – pójść na coś, przystać na propozycję, zrobić coś

perky – radosny, żwawy

disillusioned – rozczarowany

(to get) itchy feet – mieć ochotę wyjechać lub zacząć robić coś nowego

straightforward – prosty, oczywisty

closure – zamknięcie, zakończenie

to prep – przygotowywać

to host – organizować, gościć

bash – impreza, balanga

jolly – impreza, biba

to credit sb with – darzyć

decent – przyzwoity, porządny

lined up – zaplanowany

at short notice – w krótkim terminie, nagle

to gauge – oceniać

long shot – grubymi nićmi szyty, przesadzony

hearing – przesłuchanie

Chapter 22

lane – alejka, uliczka

tax exile – emigrant podatkowy

satnav – nawigacja, GPS

gravel – żwir

drive – podjazd

affair – tu: rzecz, budynek

mock – udawany, podrabiany

ramshackle – rozpadający się

mansion – rezydencja

imposing – okazały, wspaniały

pile – tu: gmach, budowla

tongue-in-cheek – ironicznie, żartobliwie

to survey – przyglądać się

to mill around – kłębić się, kręcić się

laden (with) – obładowany czymś

to help oneself to – poczęstować się

by way of – dla; jako

to bear in mind – brać pod uwagę

to wear on – mijać, upływać

to retire – odejść, oddalać się

at one point – w pewnym momencie

guardedly – ostrożnie

dreadful – straszny

underlying – ukryty, leżący u podstaw

issue – problem

to contribute to – przyczyniać się do

bluntly – prosto z mostu

to beckon – przywoływać skinieniem

out of earshot – poza zasięgiem słuchu

awkward – niewygodny, dziwny

wander round – przechadzka

paddock – wybieg dla koni

chestnut – kasztanowy (kolor)

mare – klacz

to stroll over – podejść (spacerem)

chubby – pulchny

to intercept – przejmować

to make sb's skin crawl – przyprawiać o dreszcz / ciarki

to bump into sb – wpaść / natknąć się na kogoś

Chapter 23

frenetic – gorączkowy, szaleńczy

to have one's wits about – być przytomnym, zachować trzeźwość umysłu / zimną krew

to burst open – otworzyć (się) na oścież

in charge – kierujący czymś, odpowiedzialny za

to perk sb up – ożywiać, rozweselać

to steady one's nerves – uspokajać

listless – zmęczony, ospały

rash – wysypka

meningitis – zapalenie opon mózgowych

to prod – przyciskać, dźgać, szturchać

with the aid of – z(a) pomocą

to kick in – zadziałać

to sniff – pociągać nosem

fatal – śmiertelny

look at the state of you – przyjrzyj się sobie, zobacz, w jakim jesteś stanie

distinct – wyraźny

to resist – opierać (się)

allure – pokusa

resolve – determinacja, postanowienie

wide awake – rozbudzony

to hold out against – opierać się

temptation – pokusa

sepulchral – ponury, ciemny, grobowy

to flee – uciekać, umykać

crow's feet – kurze łapki (zmarszczki)

sagging – obwisły

lifeless – bez życia

to look like death warmed up – wyglądać jak śmierć na chorągwi

to prey on sb's mind – dręczyć kogoś

misty – mglisty

Chapter 24

ominous – złowieszczy

instantly – od razu, natychmiast

to sideline – unieszkodliwić, pozbyć się problemu

social visit – wizyta towarzyska, odwiedziny

careless – nieostrożny

Chapter 25

to give sb the tour – oprowadzać kogoś

out of the blue – znienacka, jak grom z jasnego nieba

to leave behind – (po)zostawiać

in a way – w pewnym sensie

regret – żal, smutek

riff – dygresja, pogawędka

to stalk – prześladować, osaczać

to wade through – brodzić w

nippy – chłodny

smashing – świetny

to retreat – wycofywać się

to creep into – wślizgnąć się, wkradać się

Chapter 26

medical records – karta chorobowa / archiwum

to bargain – targować się, negocjować

to talk some sense into sb – przemówić komuś do rozumu

Chapter 27

flowing – falujące

jet-black – kruczoczarny

jetty – pomost, molo

lagoon – zatoczka

hive – ul, tu: miejsce, gdzie się dużo dzieje

shutters – żaluzje, okiennice

suspended – zawieszony

vaguely – niejasno, mgliście

to further – promować; posuwać do przodu

mouthful – trudne do wymówienia słowo / zdanie

to line – stać wzdłuż, okalać

to chug – telepać się

bathed – skąpany

footman – lokaj

tailcoat – frak

portico – portyk

self-conscious – skrępowany, onieśmielony

to warm to – oswajać się z, skłaniać się ku, polubić

to eavesdrop – podsłuchiwać

sumptuous – wystawny, kosztowny

to line – być w szeregu, w jednej linii

sequinned – w cekiny

gown – suknia wieczorowa

staircase – klatka schodowa, schody

specimen – okaz

to mingle – bywać w towarzystwie kogoś, budować kontakty

plunging neckline – duży dekolt (o ubraniu)

menagerie – zwierzyniec, menażeria

to elucidate – wyjaśniać

crane – żuraw

on a par with – równo z, na poziomie

to do sth justice – zrobić coś należycie, dobrze coś oddać

claptrap – bełkot, nonsens

to ascend – wspinać się, wznosić się

to blend – mieszać, łączyć

tale – bajeczka, historia

to ripple – falować, marszczyć się

vaporetto – tramwaj wodny

to weave – przemykać, przeplatać

to and fro – tam i sam, tam i z powrotem

asset – atut

far from it – przeciwnie

be my guest – proszę bardzo

prime seat – miejsce w pierwszym rzędzie

cagey – ostrożny, skryty

Chapter 28

phone records – biling

to default on – nie uregulować płatności

mortgage – kredyt hipoteczny

to feel sb – obmacywać

slick operator – cwaniak

to wriggle out of – wymsknąć się, wyjść z

bothered – zmartwiony

Chapter 29

count me in – wchodzę w to, licz na mnie

bulb – żarówka

incredulously – z niedowierzaniem

to get high – upalić się

fogbound – spowity mgłą

deserted – opuszczony

to ghost out – tu: wyłaniać się

to vanish – znikać

to fade – zanikać

to materialise – ukazać się, pojawić (fizycznie)

at some point – w którymś momencie

troubled – zmartwiony

swansong – łabędzi śpiew

scant – skąpy, niewiele

transfixed – zszokowani, sparaliżowani

spectral – widmowy

hearse – karawan, kondukt żałobny

to chant – śpiewać monotonnie, mruczeć

to show around – oprowadzać

tight – mocno

locked-in syndrome – (med.) zespół zamknięcia

trapped – w potrzasku, w pułapce

befogged – mglisty

gloom – smutek, ponurość

to envelop – otaczać, pochłaniać

to roar – (wy)ryczeć, drzeć się

chorus – refren

grim – ponury

farewell – pożegnalny

keep it to yourself – zachowaj to dla siebie

intricate – skomplikowany

to put it like that – tak to ująć

to deflect – odwracać uwagę

spiel – gadka

to switch sides – zmieniać stronę, przechodzić na stronę przeciwnika

mindset – mentalność, sposób myślenia

to be a natural – mieć talent, być urodzonym...

to have a good way about one – mieć dryg, mieć coś w sobie

to pop up – pojawiać się

to cross sb's mind – przychodzić do głowy

Messiah complex – kompleks Mesjasza

to be on the same wavelength – nadawać na tej samej fali

to rate – oceniać

dirty old man – zbereźnik

touchy-feely – milusiński, pieszczoch, emocjonalny

mystique – tajemniczość

sensuous – zmysłowy

wised-up – uświadomiony, obyty

to pique – wzbudzać

deity – bóstwo

savant – mędrzec

rallying cry – okrzyk bojowy

to skip down – przeskoczyć niżej

core – podstawowy, zasadniczy

distortion – zniekształcenie, wypaczenie

to bridge – łączyć

inner self – wewnętrzne 'ja'

to back up – potwierdzać, dostarczać dowodów

relentlessly – nieustannie

testimonials – świadectwa

rows in front – rzędy z przodu

runway – pas startowy

take-off – start samolotu

fidgety – nerwowy, wiercący się

to turn out – okazać się, być

turbulent – niespokojny

mutual – wspólny

to tremble – drżeć

Chapter 30

to cut to the chase – przechodzić do rzeczy

to go on record – wypowiadać się publicznie / oficjalnie

assault – napaść

improper – nieodpowiedni

to spare the details – oszczędzać komuś szczegółów

to put (sb) away – aresztować, zapuszkować

to courier across – przesyłać

to be on one's way – iść, zbierać się

Chapter 31

to brood – rozmyślać, rozpamiętywać

domestic – domowy

to plead (with) – błagać, prosić

outright – wprost

to brief – poinformować

to adjust – poprawiać

to overdose (OD) – przedawkować

sheltered housing – dom opieki

warden – strażnik, stróż

to come forward – ujawniać, zgłaszać się

hellishly – piekielnie

dull – nudny

fuss – zamieszanie, szum

kerb – krawężnik

solicitor – adwokat

hospital trust – zarząd szpitala

civil action – postępowanie cywilne

to impact on – mieć wpływ na, wpływać na

to raise a few eyebrows – budzić zdziwienie

participant – uczestnik

to file out – wychodzić

sober – spokojny, tu: poważny

official – urzędnik

presence – obecność

to indicate – wskazywać

to compose oneself – pozbierać / uspokoić się

clerk of the court -- sekretarz sądowy

upright – wyprostowany

coroner – sędzia śledczy

to exude – emanować czymś

gravitas – powaga, patos

to edge (over) – przesuwać się w kierunku

to unfold – ukazywać się, (po)toczyć się

to steal glances – rzucać ukradkowe spojrzenia

vicariously – pośrednio

to summon – wzywać

to relate – relacjonować

to double-check – upewniać się

to seek – dążyć do, szukać

to apportion blame – obciążać winą

merely – jedynie, tylko

ashen – blady

to run through – omawiać

to impress upon – podkreślać, uzmysławiać

to withdraw – wycofywać (się)

view – opinia, zdanie

a great deal of – dużo

in-depth – dogłębny, dokładny

mindful (of) – świadomy

negligible – nieistotny, bez znaczenia

artful – przebiegły

testimony – zeznanie

avuncular – przyjacielski, ojcowski

fateful – brzemienny w skutki, pamiętny

to deliver a verdict – wydać werdykt

open verdict – wyrok otwarty (nie wykryto sprawcy)

to depart – opuszczać, odchodzić

to draw a line under – zamknąć sprawę, mieć coś za sobą

to be destined to – gwarantować

to give a rocky ride – wpakować w tarapaty

to spot – zauważyć

predicament – opały, kłopot

to acknowledge – pozdrawiać

resigned to – pogodzony z

to fish for – polować na, myszkować, szukać

workable – nadający się do wykorzystania

Chapter 32

to make sth of sth – sądzić / rozumieć jakoś

essential – kluczowy, zasadniczy

to be on – być na (lekach)

aftermath – następstwo, skutek, pokłosie

fallout – negatywny skutek

to fare – powodzić się, wypadać

to restore – przywracać

untouchable – nietykalny

to get sb on board – zwerbować kogoś, namówić

arm bending – przekonywanie, naciskanie

Mephistophelean – szatański

to strike a deal – zawrzeć umowę, dobić targu

to take a dim view of... – nie pochwalać...

misconduct – zaniedbanie, działanie wbrew etyce zawodowej

commitment – poświęcenie, zaangażowanie

to persuade – przekonywać

generous – hojny, szczodry

incentive – motywacja, zachęta

distasteful – niesmaczny

to cross a line – posunąć się za daleko

to compromise – narażać na szwank, wmieszać

pattern – wzór

to force – zmuszać

comeuppance – zasłużona kara, karma

to spill the beans – puścić farbę, wygadać się

back and forth – tam i z powrotem

pavement – chodnik

aglow – rozświetlony

high tide – przypływ

outspread – rozpostarty

pier – molo, pomost

stave – belka

to sparkle – lśnić, migotać

to run its course – wyczerpać się, dobiec końca

imperceptible – niezauważalny

to calve – oderwać się (od lodowca)

glacier – lodowiec

Chapter 33

whereby – zgodnie z którym

disquiet – niepokój

dolorous – bolesny

to drag back – ciągnąć do tyłu

time marches on – czas leci

got there in the end – w końcu się udało

to get round to – zabrać się za, poruszyć jakiś temat

to be up to no good – kombinować, broić

to feel sorry for – współczuć

stoned – upalony, na haju

in the clear – wolny od podejrzeń

wry – drwiący, kpiący

to produce – wyciągać

to call it a night – kończyć (dzień), iść spać

to fold out – rozkładać (się)

to settle – ustalać, uzgadniać

disoriented – zdezorientowany

Chapter 34

counter – blat, lada, kontuar

single malt – rodzaj szkockiej whisky

on one's tod – sam

to get together – spotykać się

to hit it off – polubić się

trying – trudny; irytujący

circumstances – warunki

to swirl – kręcić, mieszać

to reminisce (about) – wspominać

barmy – stuknięty, zwariowany

upheaval – gwałtowna zmiana

emboldened – ośmielony, zachęcony

to overlook – wychodzić na (okna)

hourglass – klepsydra

windowsill – parapet

grain – ziarno

SŁOWNICZEK

A

a fair bit – sporo

a great deal of – dużo

a lot at stake – wysoka stawka

A&E – ostry dyżur

absorbed (in) – pochłonięty

abstruse – zawiły, niejasny

acknowledge – pozdrawiać

act out – odegrać

adamant – stanowczy, przekonany

adjust – poprawiać, dopasowywać (się)

ado – zamieszanie

adrift – unoszący się

adverse reaction – niepożądana reakcja

advise (frml.) – poinformować

affair – tu: rzecz, budynek; sprawa, wydarzenie; romans

affluent – bardzo bogaty, zamożny

aftermath – następstwo, skutek, pokłosie

agitated – poruszony

aglow – rozświetlony

agreeable – przyjemny

ahead – przed nami

air – nastrój

al fresco – na zewnątrz, na powietrzu

alarming – niepokojący

all but – wszystko poza..., niemal, prawie

all hands to the / on deck – wszyscy do pracy

allure – pokusa

amble – iść powoli, spacerować

amicable – sympatyczny, przyjazny

annoying – denerwujący

anticipation, in ~ – wyczekująco

anticoagulants – leki przeciw-zakrzepowe

antipasti – przystawki

anxiously – niespokojnie, lękliwie, z niepokojem

any good? – nadaje się? i jak?

ape – małpa; naśladować, małpować

apply – aplikować, stosować

appointment – wizyta, spotkanie

apportion blame – obciążać winą

apprehend – zatrzymywać, aresztować

approach – zbliżać się, podchodzić; nadejście; postawa (wobec czegoś)

arc – łuk

arcane – tajemniczy, zawiły

arch – wyginać się (w łuk)

arm bending – przekonywanie, naciskanie

array – szeroki wybór; układ, szyk

artful – przebiegły, wymyślny

ascend – wspinać się, wznosić się

as pleased as Punch – bardzo zadowolony

ashen – blady, popielaty

askew – przekrzywiony, na bakier

assault – napadać, atakować; napaść

assess – oceniać

asset – atut

assume – zakładać, przyjmować

at short notice – w krótkim terminie, nagle

at some point – w którymś momencie

at the scene – na miejscu (zdarzenia)

attempt – próbować; próba

attend to sth – załatwiać coś, zajmować się czymś

autopsy – autopsja

avail, **to no** ~ – bez skutku

avaricious – zachłanny, chciwy

avuncular – dobrotliwy, ojcowski, braterski

awkward – niewygodny, dziwny

B

back and forth – tam i z powrotem

back up – potwierdzać, dostarczać dowodów, wspierać

bargain – targować się, negocjować

barmy – stuknięty, zwariowany

bash – impreza, balanga

bathed – skąpany

batsman – zawodnik wybijający piłkę (krykiet)

bear up – trzymać się, dawać radę

be a bit of a... – być trochę...

be a natural – mieć talent, być urodzonym...

be about to do sth – mieć coś zrobić zaraz

be better off – mieć się lepiej

be coming from – chodzić komuś o coś, sugerować

be destined to – być przeznaczonym do czegoś; gwarantować

be familiar with – znać

be going on about sth – gadać o czymś, mieć coś na myśli

be high – być na haju

be itching (to do sth) – mieć ochotę coś zrobić

be my guest – proszę bardzo

benighted – zamroczony, ciemny; nieświadomy

be off – wyłączony

be off to – wybierać się dokądś

be off to sleep – iść spać, zasypiać

be on – być na (lekach)

be on duty – mieć dyżur

be on one's way – iść, zbierać się

be on the same wavelength – nadawać na tej samej fali

be partial to sth – lubić coś, mieć do czegoś słabość

be quick about sth – (po)spieszyć się z czymś

be short of funds – stać krucho z kasą

be short of... – stać krucho z..., mieć niewiele

be short-handed – mieć za mało personelu

be slow on the uptake – tępawy, wolno kapujący

be up to no good – kombinować, broić

bear – nosić, znosić

bear in mind – brać pod uwagę, rozważać

beat about the bush – owijać w bawełnę

beckon – przywoływać skinieniem

bee's knees – pępek świata, zarozumialec

befogged – mglisty

beholden (to sb) – zobowiązany

bend forward – pochylać się (do przodu)

bend the rules – naginać zasady

bending, **arm** ~ – przekonywanie, naciskanie

benefit – korzyść, pożytek

benighted – nieświadomy

besides – poza tym

bewitched – oczarowany

bicker – kłócić się, sprzeczać

blaring – trąbienie

blasphemy – bluźnierstwo

blazing – palący, piekący

blend – mieszać, łączyć; mieszanka, połączenie

bloke – facet

blood test – badanie krwi

blow – cios

blow a kiss – przesyłać całusa

bluntly – prosto z mostu

booze – alkohol

bothered – zmartwiony, poirytowany

bounce back – odbijać; stawać na nogi

boundary – granica

breast, **make a clean ~ of it** – przyznać się

breathe life into – tchnąć życie

brewing – tu: ciążący, niewygodny

bridge – łączyć

bridge, **cross a ~ when you come to it** – nie martw się na zapas

brief – informować; krótki, lakoniczny

briefly – krótko

brood – rozmyślać, rozpamiętywać; trzódka

bruising – stłuczenie

brusque – opryskliwy

buff – żółtawy, płowy

bulb – żarówka; bulwa

bump into sb – wpaść / natknąć się na kogoś

bundle – pęk, kłębek, tobołek, plik

burst open – otworzyć (się) na oścież; pękać

bush, beat about the ~ – owijać w bawełnę

buzz – bzyczeć; gwar, szum

by any chance – przypadkiem

by qualification – z wykształcenia

by way of – dla; jako

C

cabinet – szafka

cagey – ostrożny, skryty

call it – stwierdzić zgon

call it a night – kończyć (dzień), iść spać

calve – oderwać się (od lodowca)

cantankerous – kłótliwy, zrzędliwy

capacity – pojemność, wydajność

cardiac arrest – zatrzymanie akcji serca

care home – dom opieki

careless – nieostrożny, lekkomyślny

carry out – przeprowadzać, realizować

carve – rzeźbić

case – pudełko, szkatułka; przypadek, sprawa

cast – rzucać (np. spojrzenie); obsada

cast off – zrzucać

castigate – karać, karcić, ganić

casually – zwyczajnie

catch – haczyk, paragraf

catch up – nadrabiać, nadganiać

chain-smoke – palić papierosa za papierosem

challenging – ambitny

chant – śpiewać monotonnie, mruczeć; pieśń, hymn, intonacja

charcoal – ciemnografitowy

cheers – dzięki

chestnut – kasztanowy (kolor)

chime – dzwonić; dzwonek

chip in – zrzucać się, składać się

chorus – refren

chubby – pulchny

chug (along) – telepać się

cicada – cykada

circumspect – ostrożny, skryty

circumstances – warunki, okoliczności

civil – uprzejmy

civil action – postępowanie cywilne

claptrap – bełkot, nonsens

clasp – klamra, zatrzask

clear away – sprzątać

cleavage – dekolt

clemency – łaska, łaskawość, łagodność

clerk – urzędnik, sprzedawca

closure – zamknięcie, zakończenie

clover – koniczyna

clover, **in** ~ – w dobrobycie

clue – wskazówka

coax – namawiać, nakłaniać

cock-up – błąd; wtopa

comatose – w śpiączce

combination lock – zamek na kod

come across – napotykać

come clean – wygadać się, powiedzieć prawdę

come down to – sprowadzać się do

come forward – ujawniać, zgłaszać się

come on! – przestań!

come together – układać się, łączyć się

come up with – wymyślać

comeuppance – zasłużona kara, karma

commitment – poświęcenie, zaangażowanie

common, **have sth in** ~ (with) – mieć coś wspólnego z

communicator – komunikatywny człowiek

compensation package – pakiet odszkodowań

compose oneself – pozbierać się

comprehend – rozumieć, pojmować

comprise – składać się z, zawierać

compromise – narażać na szwank, wmieszać; zobowiązywać

conceal – ukrywać

concerned, **for all** ~ – dla wszystkich zainteresowanych

conciliatory – pojednawczy

concussion – wstrząs mózgu

confess – wyznawać

confidentiality agreement – umowa poufności

confirm – potwierdzać

conspicuous – widoczny, rzucający się w oczy

contain – zawierać

continental – europejski, kontynentalny

contribute to – przyczyniać się do

contritely – ze skruchą

core – środek, rdzeń; ogryzek; podstawowy, zasadniczy

coroner – sędzia śledczy

could do with – przydałby się (komuś) ...

could do without – nie potrzebować, móc się obejść bez ...

count me in – wchodzę w to, licz na mnie

counter – blat, lada, kontuar; anty-, kontr-

coup – mistrzowskie posunięcie; zamach

courier across – przesyłać

cove – zatoczka

cover oneself in glory – okrywać się chwałą

crack – łamać; załamywać się, pękać; pęknięcie; rysa

craft – przygotować, zrobić (ręcznie); rzemiosło, sztuka

cramp – skurcz

crane – żuraw, dźwig

cranky – marudny, zrzędliwy

crawl up – podpełzać

crawl, **make sb's skin** ~ – przyprawiać o dreszcz, wywoływać ciarki

credit sb with – darzyć (np. zaufaniem)

creep into – wślizgnąć się, wkradać się

creep over sb – ogarniać kogoś (uczucie)

critical – ważny, istotny

cross a bridge when you come to it – nie martw się na zapas

cross a line – posuwać się za daleko

cross one's mind – przychodzić do głowy

cross with – zły na

cross-legged – ze skrzyżowanymi nogami

crow's feet – kurze łapki (zmarszczki)

cryptically – zagadkowo

cubicle – część sali oddzielona zasłoną

cup, **not my** ~ **of tea** – nie w moim typie

curious – ciekawy

cursed – przeklęty

curtly – szorstko, krótko, chłodno, obcesowo

cut to the chase – przechodzić do rzeczy

D

dalliance – flirt, zaloty

dare – mieć odwagę, odważyć się; wyzwanie

dart (about eyes) – omiatać spojrzeniem

dash – lecieć, uciekać; ukośnik

dawn – świt

dawn on sb – docierać do kogoś

deal with – uporać się z, poradzić sobie z

deal, **a great ~ of** – dużo

debauched – rozpustny, psotny

decent – przyzwoity, porządny

deck, **all hands to the / on ~** – wszyscy na pokład, wszyscy do pracy

decline – odmawiać

decrepit – rozpadający się, podupadły

deep-seated – głęboko zakorzeniony

defamatory – oszczerczy

default on – nie uregulować płatności

deflect – odwracać uwagę

dehydrated – odwodniony

deity – bóstwo

delapidated – rozpadający się

delay – opóźniać; opóźnienie

deliver a verdict – wydawać werdykt

depart – opuszczać, odchodzić

depository – skład, magazyn

deputy – zastępca

descend on sb – tu: dopadać kogoś, zawładnąć kimś

deserted – opuszczony

desire – pożądać

desolate – opuszczony

desperate times call for desperate measures – trudne okoliczności wymagają desperackich rozwiązań

deteriorate – pogarszać się

determine – określać, ustalać

diarrhoea – rozwolnienie

dip – zanurzać, moczyć; kąpiel

dirty old man – zbereźnik

discharge – zwalniać, wypisywać za szpitala

disciple – uczeń, apostoł

dishevelled – zaniedbany, rozczochrany

disillusioned – rozczarowany

disoriented – zdezorientowany

disquiet – niepokój

distasteful – niesmaczny

distend – wydąć, rozciągać

distinct – wyraźny

distortion – zniekształcenie, wypaczenie

distract – rozpraszać

distracted – roztargniony

divulge – ujawniać

do (some) **harm** – szkodzić

do just as well – być równie dobrym, nadać się

do shifts – pracować na zmiany

do sth proud – być chlubą, czynić dumnym

do the splits – robić szpagat

dolorous – bolesny

domestic – domowy

don – przywdziewać

dope – narkotyk

double-check – upewniać się

downplay – pomniejszać

drag back – ciągnąć do tyłu

draw – przyciągać, wyciągać, pobierać

draw a line under – zamknąć sprawę, mieć coś za sobą

draw to a close – zmierzać ku końcowi

drawn-out – przeciągający się

dreadful – straszny

dress up – przebierać się, ubierać się elegancko

drip – ociekać; kroplówka

drive – podjazd; motywacja, chęć

drizzle – mżawka

drop – opadać, upuszczać; kropla

drop round – wpadać, odwiedzać

droves, **in** ~ – tłumnie

drowsy – senny

duffer – matoł, cymbał

dull – nudny

dusty – zakurzony

duvet – kołdra

E

earlobe – płatek ucha

ease – przesunąć się powoli

easier said than done – łatwiej powiedzieć niż zrobić

eavesdrop – podsłuchiwać

ebb away – ulatniać się

eclipse – przyćmiewać, przyćmiewać; zaćmienie

edge – krawędź; ton głosu; ~ **over** – przesuwać się w kierunku

efficiacy – skuteczność

effortessly – bez wysiłku

elucidate – wyjaśniać, objaśniać

emboldened – ośmielony, zachęcony

emulate – naśladować

en route – w drodze

end up (doing sth) – skończyć (gdzieś, jakoś)

engender – zrodzić, wywołać

enlightening – pouczający

entertain – zabawiać

envelope – otaczać, pochłaniać

erratic – zmienny, nieprzewidywalny

essential – kluczowy, zasadniczy

evasively – wymijająco

even so – pomimo, nawet jeśli

eventually – wreszcie, w końcu

exacerbate – pogarszać

examination – badanie

excuse – wymówka

executive – dyrektor

exile – zesłaniec

exorbitant – wygórowany, zawrotny

expectantly – wyczekująco

expense – wydatek

expiry date – data ważności

exposed – odkryty

expound – objaśniać, tłumaczyć

exude – emanować, wydzielać

eye, **see** ~ **to eye** – zgadzać się

eyelid – powieka

F

fact of life – smutna rzeczywistość

fade – zanikać, słabnąć, blaknąć

fags (inf.) – fajki

fair enough – w porządku

fair, **a ~ bit** – sporo

falcon – sokół

fall out over – pokłócić się o

fallout – negatywny skutek

fancy – mieć ochotę na; wymyślny, fikuśny

fancy dress party – bal kostiumowy

far from it – przeciwnie

fare – powodzić się, wypadać

farewell – żeganać; pożegnanie; pożegnalny

fatal – śmiertelny

fateful – brzemienny w skutki, pamiętny

fearful – zaniepokojony

fee – stawka

feel sb / sth– obmacywać

feel sorry for – współczuć

fetch – pójść po, przynieść

fiddle with – bawić się czymś, majstrować / gmerać przy czymś

fidget – wiercić się

fiery – ognisty

file out – wychodzić

fill sb in on sth – wprowadzić kogoś w temat, zdać komuś sprawę z

fine – szlachetny, delikatny, wykwintny, dobry; cienki

firmly – pewnie, z naciskiem

fish for – myszkować, szukać, polować na

fit into – pasować do, mieścić się w

flatter – schlebiać

fleapit – obskurny

flee – uciekać, umykać

flip-flops – klapki

flop (onto) – opadać na

flourish – teatralny gest; akcent, intonacja

flow – lać się, płynąć

flowing – falujący

fluctuate – wahać się, zmieniać

flustered – zdenerwowany, pobudzony

focus session – konsultacja

fogbound – spowity mgłą

fold out – rozkładać (się)

folk – ludzie

folks – pot. starzy, rodzice

follow suit – naśladować, iść za przykładem

footman – lokaj

for all concerned – dla wszystkich zainteresowanych

for the time being – póki co, narazie

for what it's worth – jeżeli ma to jakieś znaczenie

force – zmuszać (się); siła, moc

forked – rozdwojony

form – formularz

fortfeit – fant

forth, **back and** ~ – tam i z powrotem

fracture – pękać; pęknięcie, złamanie

frame – otaczać, obramowywać; rama

frantic – gorączkowy

fraud – oszustwo

fraught with – pełny czegoś (nieprzyjemnego)

frenetic – gorączkowy, szaleńczy

fret – martwić się, trwożyć się

Friday week – w piątek za tydzień

fuelled – podsycany, napędzany

full steam ahead – (ruszać) pełną parą, cała naprzód

further – promować; posuwać do przodu

fuss – grymasić; zamieszanie, szum

G

Gallic – galijski, francuski

galore – w obfitości (używ. po rzecz.)

gatekeeper – strażnik

gauge – oceniać

gaze – spoglądać; spojrzenie

generous – hojny, szczodry

get away with – ujść komuś na sucho

get high – upalić się, naćpać się

get hold of – zdobyć, schwytać

get on with – radzić sobie z

get out – wydostać się; wyjść na jaw; tu: zmienić branżę

get round to – zabrać się za, poruszyć jakiś temat

get sb on board – zwerbować kogoś, namówić

get sth right – nie popełnić błędu

get the ball rolling – zaczynać, ruszać, startować

get the message out there – rozpowszechniać, upubliczniać

get there in the end – w końcu się udać

get to sb – trapić, zaboleć

get together – spotykać się

get up to – porabiać

get wind of sth – zwietrzyć coś, dowiedzieć się

ghost out – tu: wyłaniać się

gibberish – bełkot, bzdury

giggle – chichotać; chichot

give a hand – pomagać

give a rocky ride – wpakować w tarapaty

give sb a tour – oprowadzać kogoś

give sth a go – próbować

glacier – lodowiec

glance around – rozglądać się

glide – sunąć

gloom – smutek, mrok

glowing – jaskrawy, promienny, lśniący

gluttony – obżarstwo

gnaw away at sb – gryźć kogoś, trapić

go a bit too far – przesadzać

go a long way – zadziałać, pomóc

go for it – pójść na coś, przystać na propozycję, zrobić coś

go into cardiac arrest – zatrzymanie akcji serca

go on record – wypowiadać się publicznie / oficjalnie

go round – odwiedzać

go through the roof – skoczyć gwałtownie w górę

go with a swing – udać się, świetnie pójść

gown – suknia wieczorowa

graceful – pełen wdzięku

grain – ziarno

gravel – żwir

gravitas – powaga, patos

grease sb's palm – dać łapówkę, posmarować

greed – chciwość

grim – ponury

groggily – na wpół przytomnie

grope – macać

grounds – teren, dziedzina

guesswork – domysły

H

hacked off – wkurzony

hairline fracture – złamanie zmęczeniowe

halo – aureola

hamper – utrudniać, przeszkadzać

hand – podawać

hand in one’s notice – wręczać wypowiedzenie

handle sth – zająć się czymś, rozegrać coś

hands-on – interaktywny, bezpośredni

hang on – zaczekaj

hangdog – winny, wisielczy

hardwood floor – parkiet

hasten – przyspieszać, pospieszać

hasty – pospieszny, pochopny

haughtiness – wyniosłość

have a bit on the side – mieć romans

have a good way about one – mieć dryg, mieć coś w sobie

have a lie-in – wylegiwać się

have a way of – mieć zwyczaj ...

have it your way – jak chcesz

have one's back against sth – opierać się o

have one's eye on – mieć oko na

have one's wits about – zachować trzeźwość umysłu / zimną krew

have sth in common (with) – mieć coś wspólnego z

have sth to do with – mieć coś wspólnego z / do czynienia z

havoc, **play with** ~ – psuć, niweczyć, wprowadzać zamęt

haze – mgiełka

hazily – niewyraźnie, mgliście

head for – zmierzać ku

headhunt – rekrutować

headlight – przednie światła

hearing – przesłuchanie

hearse – karawan, kondukt żałobny

hellishly – piekielnie

help oneself to – poczęstować się

hestitation – wahanie

hiding place – kryjówka

high and mighty – zarozumiały, patetyczny

high tide – przypływ

highly strung – spięty, nerwowy

hillside – zbocze, stok

hit it off – polubić się

hive – ul, tłoczne, hałaśliwe miejsce

hoist oneself – podnosić się

hold back on sth – ukrywać coś

hold out against – opierać się

holey – dziurawy

hoot – wybuch śmiechu, drwiący śmiech

hospital trust – zarząd szpitala

host – organizować, gościć; gospodarz

hostility – wrogość

hourglass – klepsydra

hover – szybować; tu: pobrzmiewać

humour – pobłażać, ustępować, sprawiać przyjemność

hurriedly – pospiesznie

hushed – ściszony

ICU (Intensive Care Unit) – OIOM (oddział intensywnej opieki medycznej)

idle – bezczynny, próżny

immaculate – nienaganny

impact on – mieć wpływ na, wpływać na

imperceptible – niezauważalny

imposing – okazały, wspaniały, górujący

impress upon – wymóc na kimś

improper – nieodpowiedni

in a bad way – w kiepskim stanie

in a way – poniekąd

in black and white – czarno na białym

in charge – kierujący czymś, odpowiedzialny za

in clover – w dobrobycie

in droves – tłumnie

in place – wdrożony, uruchomiony

in sb's interest – w czyimś interesie

in the best case scenario – w najlepszym wypadku

in the clear – wolny od podejrzeń

in the grand scheme of things – w szerszej perspektywie

in time for – na czas, żeby zdążyć

incentive – motywacja, zachęta

inconvenience – sprawiać kłopot

incredulously – z niedowierzaniem

in-depth – dogłębny, dokładny

indicate – wskazywać

indignation – oburzenie, złość

indiscernible – niezauważalny, niewyczuwalny

inebriation – upojenie alkoholowe

ineluctable – nieunikniony

inevitable – nieunikniony

inexorable – nieunikniony

inflatable – nadmuchiwany

initial – początkowy, pierwotny, wstępny

injury – obrażenie

inner self – wewnętrzne ‘ja’

instantly – od razu, natychmiast

insured – ubezpieczony

insurer – ubezpieczyciel

intently – intensywnie

intercept – przejmować

intricate – skomplikowany

issue – wydawać, wypuszczać na rynek; wydanie; problem

it won’t come to that – nie dojdzie do tego

ivory – kość słoniowa, kolor kości słoniowej

J

jet-black – kruczoczarny

jetty – pomost, molo

jittery – podenerwowany

jolly – impreza, biba

joy – radość

junkie – ćpun

just about – prawie

just across – po drugiej stronie

justice, to do sth ~ – zrobić coś należycie, dobrze coś oddać

justify – usprawiedliwiać

K

keep a lid on – trzymać w tajemnicy

keep an eye on – mieć oko na

keep it to yourself – zachowaj to dla siebie

keep schtum – trzymać gębę na kłódkę

keep sth at bay – trzymać na dystans

kerb – krawężnik

kick in – zadziałać

kipper – wędzony śledź

knife – dźgać, sztyletować

L

laden (with) – obładowany czymś

lagoon – zatoczka, laguna

lane – alejka, uliczka

lay the groundwork – kłaść podwaliny

leaf through – kartkować, przeglądać

leave – urlop

leave behind – (po)zostawiać

leave in the lurch – zostawiać na lodzie

leer – spoglądać pożądliwie

leg – etap

lengthy – dłużący się

libation – libacja

lid – wieczko, pokrywka

lie-down – odpoczynek

lie-in, **have a** ~ – wylegiwać się

lifeless – bez życia

light up – zapalać papierosa

lightweight – przeciętny, mierny

likelihood – prawdopodobieństwo

line – być w szeregu, w jednej linii; stać wzdłuż, okalać

lined up – zaplanowany

link – wiązać, łączyć; powiązanie; kontakt

linked – powiązany

listless – bezwładny, zmęczony, ospały

live a little – zaszaleć

lively – szampański, zwariowany, żywy, żywiołowy

living dead – żywy trup, zombie

load – banda, grupa; ładunek

locked-in syndrome – (med.) zespół zamknięcia

loiter – wałęsać się, kręcić się

long shot – grubymi nićmi szyty, przesadzony

look at the state of you – przyjrzyj się sobie, zobacz, w jakim jesteś stanie

look away – odwracać wzrok

look like death warmed up – wyglądać jak śmierć na chorągwi

lot – grupa ludzi

lounge – wylegiwać się; **back** – usadowić się, usiąść wygodnie

lousy – nędzny, kiepski

lurch, **leave in the** ~ – zostawiać na lodzie

lurk – czyhać

lust – pożądanie

lusty – silny, mocny

M

magnanimous – wspaniałomyślny, wielkoduszny

magnum – półtoralitrowa butelka alkoholu

make a clean breast of it – przyznać się

make a difference – mieć znaczenie / wpływ

make a pretence of – udawać

make an appointment – umawiać się na wizytę

make sb's skin crawl – przyprawiać o dreszcz / ciarki

make sth of sth – sądzić / rozumieć jakoś

make to do sth – zamierzać coś zrobić

makeshift – prowizoryczny

mansion – rezydencja

mare – klacz

materialise – ukazać się, pojawić (fizycznie)

measure – mierzyć; krok, środek

measure out – odmierzać, wydzielać

medical records – karta chorobowa, historia choroby

melt away – topnieć

memory stick – pendrive, pamięć zewnętrzna

menagerie – zwierzyniec, menażeria

meningitis – zapalenie opon mózgowych

Mephistophelean – szatański

merely – jedynie, tylko

Messiah complex – kompleks Mesjasza

mid-afternoon – od godz. 14 do 16

middle name – drugie imię; cecha charakterystyczna

mill around – kłębić się, kręcić się

mind goes blank – mieć pustkę w głowie

mindful (of) – świadomy

mindset – mentalność, sposób myślenia

mingle – obracać się w towarzystwie, budować kontakty, spotykać się z

mirage – miraż

mirth – radość

mirthful – wesoły, radosny

mischievously – psotnie

misconduct – zaniedbanie, działanie wbrew etyce zawodowej

misty – mglisty

mobile – aktywny

mock – udawać, naśladować; udawany, podrabiany

mortgage – kredyt hipoteczny

mould – kształtować, odlewać, rzeźbić, formować; pleśń

mouthful – trudne do wymówienia słowo / zdanie

move sideways – odsuwać na bok / boczny tor

mow – kosić

mull over – rozmyślać, rozważać

mutual – wspólny

mystique – tajemniczość

N

nag – gderać, dręczyć

nagging – dokuczliwy, dręczący

name – wymieniać

narrow down – zawężać

near – zbliżać się

negligible – zaniedbywalny, bez znaczenia

nip in – czmychnąć, wkraść się

nippy – chłodny

no charge – gratis

nod off – przysnąć

not my cup of tea – nie w moim typie

not to sleep a wink – nie zmrużyć oka

notice, **at short** ~ – w krótkim terminie, nagle

now and again – od czasu do czasu

nowhere to be seen – niewidoczny, poza zasięgiem wzroku

novelty – nowość

nutter – świr, czubek

O

obdurate – uparty

obstinate – uparty, krnąbrny

of late – ostatnio

off – wyłączony

offence – wykroczenie

official – urzędnik

ominous – złowieszczy

on a par with – równo z, na poziomie

on one’s tod – sam

on sb’s behalf – w czyimś imieniu

on tenterhooks – w napięciu, jak na szpilkach

on the stroke of – co do minuty

on tiptoes – na paluszkach

open verdict – wyrok otwarty (nie wykryto sprawcy)

opulent – bardzo bogaty, zamożny

ordinarily – zwykle, normalnie

out of earshot – poza zasięgiem słuchu

out of the blue – znienacka, jak grom z jasnego nieba

out of the way – z drogi; **get sb / sth** ~ – pozbyć się kogoś / czegoś

outbreak – wybuch, fala

outburst – wybuch, napad

outcome – rezultat

outline – zarys

outright – wprost

outspread – rozpostarty

overdo – przedobrzyć, przesadzać

overdose – przedawkowanie

overdose (OD) – przedawkować

overhear – usłyszeć

overlook – wychodzić na (okna)

oxygen tank – butla tlenowa

P

pace – chodzić nerwowo, kroczyć

package, **compensation** ~ – pakiet odszkodowań

packaging – opakowanie

paddock – padok, wybieg dla koni

palatable – smaczny

palate – podniebienie

palm – dłoń

palm, **grease sb's** ~ – dawać łapówkę

pan out – potoczyć się

par, **on a** ~ **with** – równo z, na poziomie

paramedic – sanitariusz

parched – spragniony, wysuszony, suchy

parking space – miejsce parkingowe

partial to – mający słabość do

partial, **be ~ to sth** – lubić coś, mieć do czegoś słabość

participant – uczestnik

pattern – wzór

pavement – chodnik

pay off – przekupywać; spłacać

pearls of wisdom – mądrości

peek – zerkać; zerknięcie, rzut oka

penny for your thoughts – o czym tak rozmyślasz?

perceptibly – zauważalnie

perched (on) – usadowiony, umieszczony

perk sb up – ożywiać, rozweselać

perks – dodatki, bonusy

perky – radosny, żwawy

persistent – uporczywy

persuade – przekonywać

phone records – biling

pier – molo, pomost

pigsty – chlew

pile – tu: gmach, budowla

pint – pół litra (objętość)

pique – wzbudzać

pitch – boisko

placate – łagodzić, uspokajać

place – umieszczać, kłaść

play havoc with – psuć, niweczyć, wprowadzać zamęt

play the game – przestrzegać reguł

plead (with) – błagać, prosić

pleased – zadowolony

plonk – tanie wino, alpaga

plume – smuga (dymu)

plunging neckline – duży dekolt (o ubraniu)

plush – luksusowy

pocket – chować do kieszeni

point, **at some / one** ~ – w którymś momencie

ponder – zastanawiać się, rozmyślać

pop – odkorkować; ~ **one's head in** – zaglądać; ~ **out** – wyskoczyć; ~ **up** – pojawiać się

portable – przenośny

portico – portyk

post – wysyłać; posada, stanowisko

post mortem – sekcja zwłok

preach – wpajać, głosić, robić kazanie

precautionary – zapobiegawczy, prewencyjny

predicament – opały, kłopot

prep – przygotowywać

presence – być świadkiem czegoś; obecność

press on – kontynuować; naglić

pressing – pilny, naglący

pretence, **make a ~ of** – udawać

prey on sb's mind – dręczyć kogoś

prime seat – miejsce w pierwszym rzędzie

proceed – przechodzić do

prod – przyciskać, dźgać, szturchać

produce – wyciągać

production line – taśma, linia produkcyjna

prone to – skłonny do

proper – porządny, właściwy

publicity blackout – tu: cisza / blokada medialna

puff up – puchnąć

pull sth off – dokonać czegoś; ~ **up** – zatrzymać się

Punch, **as pleased as** ~ – bardzo zadowolony

punter (inf.) – klient

put an arm around – obejmować

put and two together – kojarzyć fakty, wyciągać wnioski

put away – aresztować, zapuszkować; ~ **down** – odkładać

put it like that – tak to ująć

put sb up to sth – zachęcać do czegoś

put sth behind – zapominać o czymś

put sth on hold – wstrzymywać

put the finishing touches – doszlifowywać, dokończyć

put up with – znosić

put your sock in it – zamknij się

puzzled – zdziwiony

Q

qualification, **by** ~ – z wykształcenia

queasiness – mdłości

questionnaire – formularz

quite a night – co za wieczór

quota – limit, kwota, przydział, kontyngent

R

race – pędzić, szaleć

rag – szmata

ragged – niechlujny, obszarpany

raise a few eyebrows – budzić zdziwienie

rallying cry – okrzyk bojowy

ramshackle – rozpadający się

rash – wysypka; pochopny, pospieszny

rate – oceniać, klasyfikować

rattle – terkotać, grzechotać; terkot; grzechotka

reassure – dodawać otuchy

refer to – nawiązywać do, odwoływać się do

regain – odzyskiwać

regret – żałować; żal, smutek

reimburse – zwracać pieniądze, pokrywać koszty

rejuvenating – ożywiający, odmładzający

relate – relacjonować, opowiadać, nawiązywać

relentlessly – nieustannie

relief – ulga

relish – rozkoszować się

remains – resztki

remedy – lekarstwo

reminisce (about) – wspominać

remotely – trochę, odlegle

repercussions – konsekwencje, reperkusje

reprise – powtórka

reptile – gad

resigned to – pogodzony z

resist – opierać (się)

resist – powstrzymywać się

resolve – zdecydować; determinacja, postanowienie

respite – przerwa, wytchnienie

restore – przywracać

retire – odejść, oddalać się; przechodzić na emeryturę

retreat – wycofywać się

reveal – odkrywać, ujawniać

revealing look – wymowne spojrzenie

reverie – rozmyślanie, zaduma

riff – dygresja, pogawędka

ripple – falować, marszczyć się

roar – (wy)ryczeć, drzeć się; ryk

round – kolejka

row in front – rząd z przodu

rub off on sb – udzielać się komuś

rumour – pogłoska

run its course – wyczerpać się, dobiec końca

run over – przejechać; obgadywać coś, relacjonować; ~ **through** – przeglądać

rundown – sprawozdanie, relacja

runway – pas startowy

ruptured disc – dyskopatia, wypadnięcie dysku

rush in – wbiegać

rustic – wiejski, rustykalny

rustle – szeleścić; szelest; ~ **sth up** – pichcić

S

sagging – obwisły

sample – pobierać próbkę; próbka

sandwich – wciskać pomiędzy

sarong – pareo

sashay – chodzić dumnie, pewnie

satnav – nawigacja, GPS

savant – mędrzec, erudyta

savoury – słony, nie słodki; pełen smaku

scant – skąpy, niewielki

scenerio, (in) **the best case** ~ – w najlepszym wypadku

scheme, (in the) **grand** ~ **of things** – w szerszej perspektywie

scheming – intrygi, machlojki

scholarship – stypendium

schtum, **keep** ~ – trzymać gębę na kłódkę

scoliotic – ze skoliozą

scrub (grass) – trawy, zarośla

seated – siedzący

secluded – odosobniony

securely – bezpiecznie

see eye to eye – zgadzać się

seek – dążyć do, szukać

self-conscious – skrępowany, onieśmielony

sense – wyczuwać

sensuous – zmysłowy

sepulchral – ponury, ciemny, grobowy

sequinned – w cekiny

setback – komplikacja, problem

settle – uzgadniać; urządzać się, osiedlać się

severely – poważnie

share – akcja (na giełdzie)

share price – kurs akcji

shareholder – udziałowiec

sharp – bystry

sharpish – natychmiast

shattered – zmęczony, wykończony

shed light on – rzucić światło na, wyjaśniać

sheltered housing – dom opieki

shift – przesuwać, zmieniać; zmiana (w pracy)

shift – zmiana

shimmer – lśnić, migotać

shin (bone) – goleń

shine, **take a ~ to sb** – polubić kogoś

shirk – wykręcać się, wymigiwać

shirty – zły, wściekły, opryskliwy

shocking – defibrylacja

short, (to be) ~ **of funds** – stać krucho z kasą

shot, **long** ~ – grubymi nićmi szyty, przesadzony

show one’s true colours – pokazać prawdziwe oblicze

shrouded in mystery – okryty tajemnicą

shun – unikać

shutters – żaluzje, okiennice

side, **have a bit on the** ~ – mieć romans

sideline – unieszkodliwić, pozbyć się problemu

sidle (over to) – przysuwać się

silhouette – sylwetka

sing from the same sheet – mówić jednym głosem

single malt – rodzaj szkockiej whisky

sink – tonąć, opadać, pogarszać się

sink one’s teeth into – uczepić się, dosł. zatapiać zęby w

sit still – usiedzieć

sizeable – znaczny, duży

skip – przeskakiwać

sleep, **not to** ~ **a wink** – nie zmrużyć oka

sleeveless – bez rękawów

slick operator – cwaniak

slip (under) – wsuwać

sloth – lenistwo; leniwiec

slurred – niewyraźny

smashing – świetny

smoothly – gładko

sniff – pociągać nosem; pociąganie nosem; ~ **around** – węszyć

snooty – snobistyczny, przemądrzały

snort – parskać

so far – jak dotąd

sober – trzeźwy; spokojny, poważny; ~ **up** – trzeźwieć

social visit – wizyta towarzyska, odwiedziny

sock, **put your** ~ **in it** – zamknij się

soften – łagodzić, zmiękczać

solicitor – adwokat

solid – solidny, porządny; stały (nie ciekły)

somnolent – śpiący

sort out – rozwiązać (problem)

source – źródło

spare the details – oszczędzać komuś szczegółów

spark up – zapalić

sparkle – lśnić, migotać

specimen – okaz

speckle – plamka

spectral – widmowy

speed up – przyspieszać

spice things up – uatrakcyjnića, dodawać pikanterii

spiel – gadka

spill the beans – puścić farbę, wygadać się

splash – chlapać, skrapiać

splits, **do the** ~ – robić szpagat

spoil – psuć, marnować (się)

spoon – nakładać łyżką

spoon-feed – podawać coś na tacy

spot – zauważyć

spread the word – rozgłaszać, rozpowiadać; głosić

square sth **with sth** – godzić z

squirm – wiercić się

staff – personel

stage – faza, etap

stake, **a lot at** ~ – wysoka stawka

stalk – prześladować, osaczać

stand back – odsunąć się; ~ **for** – oznaczać

starter – przystawka

stave – belka

steady – ciągły, nieprzerwany, równy

steady one's nerves – uspokajać

steam, **full** ~ **ahead** – (ruszać) pełną parą

steaming – parujący, gorący

steal glances – rzucać ukradkowe spojrzenia

step out – wychodzić

stick to sth – trzymać się

stir – poruszyć się, ożywiać się

stitch – zszywać; szew

stoned – upalony

stony – kamienny

stop dead in one's tracks – stanąć jak wryty

straight face – kamienna / poważna twarz

straighten sb's head out – uspokoić kogoś, pomóc się opanować

straightforward – prosty, oczywisty

stray – zabłąkać się; zbłąkany

stretcher – nosze

strictly – dokładnie

strike a deal – zawrzeć umowę, dobić targu

strike sb – uderzyć; olśnić kogoś

stroke, **on the ~ of** – co do minuty

stroll over – podejść (spacerem)

struggle – zmagać się

strung, **highly** ~ – spięty, nerwowy

sturdy – silny, mocny, stabilny, trwały

suit – pasować

suite – pokój, sala

summon – wzywać

sumptuous – wystawny, kosztowny

sunlounger – leżak

superficial – powierzchowny

surreptitious – dyskretny

survey – przyglądać się

suspend – zawieszać

suspension – zawieszenie

swansong – łabędzi śpiew

swirl – kręcić, mieszać; zawijas

switch – zamieniać, podmieniać

switch sides – zmieniać stronę, przechodzić na stronę przeciwnika

swollen – spuchnięty

T

taciturn – małomówny

tailcoat – frak

take a dim view of... – nie pochwalać...

take a shine to sb – polubić kogoś

take centre stage – znaleźć się w centrum uwagi

take hold of – łapać

take one's mind off things – zrelaksować się

take over – przejmować

take sb through – zabrać kogoś do

take-off – start

tale – bajeczka, historia

talk gibberish – gadać bzdury

talk some sense into sb – przemówić komuś do rozumu

tap (a phone) – zakładać podsłuch

tax exile – emigrant podatkowy

tease – kusić; przekomarzać się, nabijać się

teasingly – przekornie, figlarnie

temple – skroń; świątynia

tempt – kusić

temptation – pokusa, kuszenie

tenacious – zawzięty, nieustępliwy

tense – napięty

tenterhooks, **on** ~ – nerwowy, w napięciu, jak na szpilkach

term – semestr

tersely – krótko, zwięźle, oschle

testimonial – świadectwo

testimony – zeznanie

that’s to be expected – tego należy się spodziewać

thaw – tajać, ocieplać się

the coast is clear – droga wolna

the Indian – restauracja indyjska

the thick of things – sedno problemu

the worse for wear – pijany

then – zatem, więc

therein – w tym

there’s more to it than... – chodzi o coś więcej

thigh-skimming – sięgający ud

things are hotting up – robi się gorąco

thorough – szczegółowy

throttle – dusić

throw up – wymiotować

tibia – piszczel

tick – kleszcz

tide – pływ

tight – mocno, kurczowo

time marches on – czas leci

timing – wyczucie (czasu)

tip (inf.) – chlew, brudne miejsce

tiptoes – czubki palców

to and fro – tam i sam

to no avail – bez skutku

tongue-in-cheek – ironicznie, żartobliwie

top up – dolewać

torpid – senny, ospały

tortuous – męczący, znojny

toss and turn – przewracać się w łóżku

touch and go – niepewny

touchy-feely – emocjonalny, egzaltowany, milusiński, pieszczoch

tough – ciężki, mocny, silny, wytrzymały

tower over – górować nad

toy with (the idea of) – zastanawiać się, rozważać

track – śledzić, namierzać; ścieżka, droga

trail – wlec za sobą; ślad

transfer – przenosić

transfixed – oczarowany

transfixed – zszokowani, sparaliżowani

trap – przytrzasnąć, złapać w pułapkę

trapped – w potrzasku, w pułapce

trauma – uraz

travail – harówka

tremble – drżeć

trial – próba, badanie

trialist – osoba badana

trickle – sączyć się

troubled – zmartwiony

try one’s hand at – spróbować swoich sił w

trying – trudny, wkurzający, męczący; irytujący

turbulent – niespokojny

turn into – zmieniać w

turn out – okazać się, być

turret – wieżyczka

twinkling – lśniący, migotliwy

U

underline – podkreślać

underlying – ukryty, leżący u podstaw

uneventful – spokojny

unfold – (po)toczyć się

unknown – niewiadoma

untouchable – nietykalny

upheaval – gwałtowna zmiana

upright – wyprostowany

upset – zmartwiony, zdenerwowany

uptake, **be slow on the** ~ – tępawy, wolno kapujący

V

vagueness – brak precyzji; niepewność

valuable – cenny

vanish – znikać

vaporetto – tramwaj wodny

vermilion – czerwonawy

vexed – zły, poirytowany

vicariously – pośrednio

view – postrzegać; opinia, zdanie

visibly – widocznie

voice – wyrażać

W

wade – brodzić

wander (round) – przechadzać się, włóczyć się, wędrować; wędrówka, przechadzka

warden – strażnik, stróż

warm to – oswajać się z, skłaniać się ku, polubić

watchful – czujny

wavelength, **be on the same** ~ – nadawać na tej samej fali

way, in a ~ – w pewnym sensie

wear on – mijać, upływać

weary – męczący

weave – przemykać, przeplatać

weed – zioło, marihuana

well groomed – zadbany

well-off – zamożny

what the hell! – a co tam!

wheel – prowadzić, pchać

whiter than white – świętszy od papieża

whereby – zgodnie z którym

wickedness – podłość

wide awake – rozbudzony

wider picture – szerszy kontekst

wiggle – kręcić, kołysać

wind, **get ~ of sth** – zwietrzyć coś

windowsill – parapet

wingtip brogues – buty męskie z ażurowym zdobieniem

wised-up – uświadomiony, obyty

with the aid of – z(a) pomocą

withdraw – wycofywać (się)

wits, **have one's ~ about** – być przytomnym, zachować trzeźwość umysłu / zimną krew

wobbly – chwiejny

PRZYPISY

[1] GCS – Glasgow Coma Scale – scale used to assess patient's consciousness

[2] BP – blood pressure

[3] Sats – oxygen saturation level in blood

[4] CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) – resuscytacja krążeniowo-oddechowa, reanimacja

[5] William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) – Irish poet and Nobel Laureate

[6] Cote D'Azur – Lazurowe Wybrzeże

[7] GP – general practitioner

[8] Ovid's *Ars Amatoria – Sztuka kochania* Owidiusza

[9] Columbian marching powder – slang for cocaine

[10] A guessing game involving acting out a word or phrase – kalambury

[11] Make sure not to use the same phrase as in the sentence nr 1.

[12] Road Traffic Collision

[13] Henley Regatta – Rowing regatta in the middle of the English summer – an important social and sporting event

[14] Alexander Fleming – discoverer of penicilin

[15] KOL – key opinion leader – medical professionals who influence their peers

[16] Resuscitation room

[17] Temazepam – drug commonly prescribed for insomnia and sleep disorders

[18] M25 – circular motorway that surrounds London

[19] Tweedledum and Tweedledee – charachters from *Alice in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll

[20] The Mad Hatter – a charachter from *Alice in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll

[21] Opening lines to *The Hearse Song* – a traditional song of unknown origin